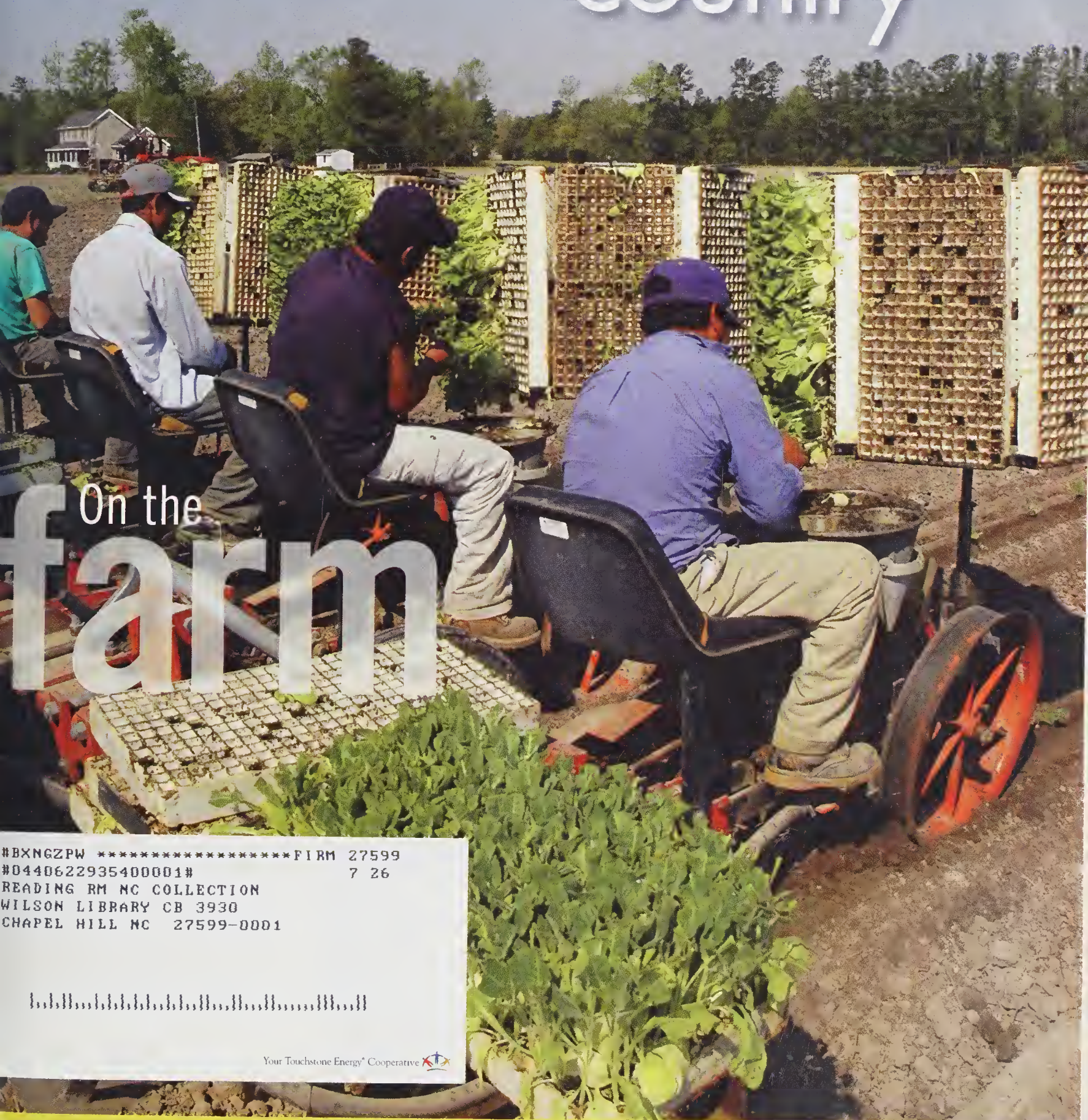



Carolina country



On the
farm

#BXNGZPW *****FIRM 27599
#0440622935400001# 7 26
READING RM NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

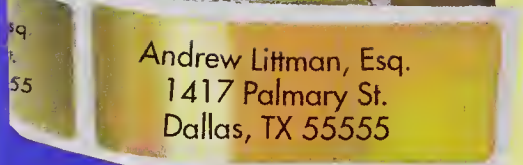
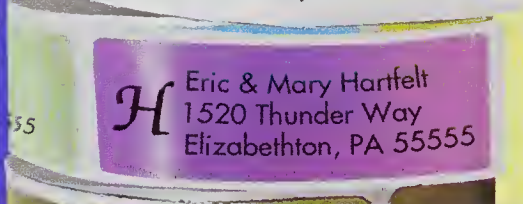
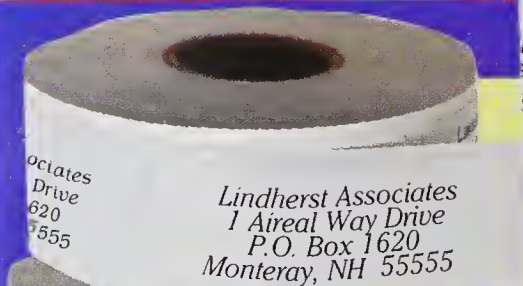
|||||

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Labels!

Name, Address, Tags, etc.

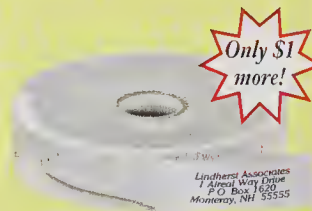


★ Your Choice of Block, Italic, or with Initial Monogram

★ Up to 4 lines, 28 spaces per line

Order By Color

- Gold #101
- White #102
- Clear #103
- Rainbow #104
- American Flag* #106



*American flag labels are 25% longer and come in quantities of 200 and 400.

250 labels only

\$3⁶⁵

500 for \$4.95!

Use Return Address Labels!

MAIL W/CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: LABELS, Dept 2950 PO Box 3200 • Salem, VA 24153

SPECIFY COLOR # _____ STYLE ☐ Block ☐ Italic ☐ Initial
Qty ☐ 250 for \$3.65 ☐ 500 for \$4.95 ☐ Dispenser \$1.00

1st line _____
2nd line _____
3rd line _____
4th line _____
SPECIFY COLOR # _____ STYLE ☐ Block ☐ Italic ☐ Initial
Qty ☐ 250 for \$3.65 ☐ 500 for \$4.95 ☐ Dispenser \$1.00
1st line _____
2nd line _____
3rd line _____
4th line _____

Sub-total Dispenser \$1.00 each Add \$1.50 per set P&H VA res add sales tax TOTAL ENCLOSED

For additional orders or if mailing address is different, please use separate sheet of paper
NFLD-cc



Teaching Art!

Each Letter of Your Child's Name Phonetically Illustrated!



(Mat & Frame not included.)

- Artist J. Boyd Gray illustrates each letter of your child's name by an image that begins with that letter.
- 11" x 8" frameable print on acid free paper to last a life-time.



Unique Art for Boys or Girls

Special Offer!

Help your children learn to spell their name.

Each Print Only
\$3⁹⁵

Not Available in any store

Mail coupon with check or money order to:
IPC CO. Dept. 8782, 1862 Apperson Dr.,
PO Box 12842, Roanoke, VA 24029-2842

Your Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
First names only. Print 12 letters max. Boy or Girl: _____

Use separate sheet of paper if more space is needed.

\$3⁹⁵ Each Print

Add \$1.50 postage handling each print


VA res. add sales tax

TOTAL

TA-cc



Published by North Carolina Association
of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

(800) 662-8835
www.carolinacountry.com

Editor

Michael E.C. Gery, (800/662-8835 ext. 3062)

Senior Associate Editor

Renee C. Gannon, CCC (800/662-8835 ext. 3209)

Contributing Editor

Karen Olson House, (800/662-8835 ext. 3036)

Creative Director

Tara Verna, (800/662-8835 ext. 3134)

Senior Graphic Designer

Warren Kessler, (800/662-8835 ext. 3090)

Contributing Graphic Designer

Dan Kurtz

Business Coordinator

Jenny Lloyd, (800/662-8835 ext. 3091)

Advertising Manager

Jennifer Boedart Hoey, (800/662-8835 ext. 3077)

Executive Vice President & CEO


Chuck Terrill

Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations

Nelle Hotchkiss

North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 850,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 27 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

All content © Carolina Country unless otherwise indicated.

 Member, Audit Bureau of Circulations

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and additional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Carolina Country® is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (ISSN 0008-6746) (USPS 832800)

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Subscriptions: Individual subscriptions, \$10 per year. \$20 outside U.S.A. Schools, libraries, \$6. Members, less than \$4.

Address Change: To change address, send magazine mailing label to your electric cooperative.



Carolina Country magazine is a member of the National Country Market family of publications, collectively reaching over 7 million households.

Advertising published in Carolina Country is accepted on the premise that the merchandise and services offered are accurately described and willingly sold to customers at the advertised price. The magazine, North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and the member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted. Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform Carolina Country at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. (919) 875-3062.

Carolina Country is available on cassette tape as a courtesy of volunteer services at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Raleigh, N.C. (888) 388-2460.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

Volume 37, No. 6, June 2005

features

10 A GOOD, OLD FARM FAMILY

For four generations, the Roberson family in Martin County has farmed in the same place, but not in the same way. They recently began a new venture.

12 FUEL FROM SOYBEANS

North Carolina soy biodiesel is catching on as a locally-produced fuel.

16 LIFE ON THE FARM

Stories of what farm life means to you.

26 YOU'RE FROM CAROLINA COUNTRY IF ...

Your mama caught white-faced bumblebees in her hand to show they won't sting. Round 13.

28 A SUMMER SPECTACLE

The amazing purple martin roost in Manns Harbor.



On the Cover

Planting tobacco on the Roberson family farm in Martin County. The Robersons grow their tobacco from seed in their greenhouses. Learn more about the Roberson farm on page 10. (Photo by Michael E. C. Gery)



Everyone pulls her weight when you live on a farm. See more of your stories about farm life on pages 16-18.

departments

FIRST PERSON4

Here is why the future looks bright for cooperatives ... A special school bus stop ... Three generations.

MORE POWER TO YOU8

Raleigh meeting looks at energy policy and pricing. Plus: Where is this?

MARKETPLACE29-33

A showcase of goods and services.

JOYNER'S CORNER31

Which county is bordered by nine others? ... Go from MAY to JUNE.

TAR HEEL LESSONS33

Clay Aiken ... Asheville's Health Adventure.

CAROLINA COMPASS34

June events and exhibits.

CAROLINA GARDENS38

Peppers and roses.

CLASSIFIED ADS41

New this month: bronzed baby shoes.

ENERGY CENTS40

Landscaping makes a difference.

CAROLINA KITCHEN42

Marinated Catfish Fillets, Hearty Eight-Layer Salad, Cream Puff Dessert.

Here is why the future looks bright for cooperatives

By Douglas W. Johnson



If you need proof that electric cooperatives have a bright future and will continue to care about their members and communities, just spend a few minutes with Staci Phipps. She's graduating from Ashe County High School this month and plans to enroll this fall at North Carolina State University where she'd like to study veterinary medicine. We at Blue Ridge Electric became well acquainted with her over the past year. I'd like to introduce her to you, because she truly represents the future of electric cooperatives.

Each spring, electric cooperatives nationwide consider applications from high school juniors in their regions who are interested in joining the co-ops' annual Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. This year Blue Ridge Electric is sponsoring four students on the Youth Tour that takes place June 19–24. Staci Phipps was among our delegation last year. More than 40 students representing North Carolina cooperatives take this trip every June. They tour historic and important places in our nation's capital, they learn about cooperatives, they have fun and make long-lasting friendships. Each state's delegates vote to select one among them to represent their state on the national Youth Leadership Council. Students try hard to gain the respect required for this selection. If you are elected to the YLC, you attend a week-long cooperative leadership conference, you represent your state at the national convention of electric cooperatives, and you receive a college scholarship.

Staci was North Carolina's YLC representative this year. You all can be very proud of how well she represented our state and cooperatives in general. At the national meeting in San Diego last March, she carried our state flag to open the convention and worked throughout the meeting on several key communications projects. We asked her, along with the other two 2004 Youth Tour reps, to serve on one of Blue Ridge Electric's Member Advisory Committees, and Staci has not missed a meeting all year. She has a great understanding of Blue Ridge Electric and has helped us stay tuned with the young people who are the future of our cooperative.

Cooperatives consider young people to be as important to our business as any member. We know it won't be long before they are raising their own families and contributing to our communities. The more they know about their local member-owned utility, the stronger and more responsive the co-op will be. That's why you'll see cooperatives across the state awarding Bright Ideas grants for innovative education in our local

schools. That's why we sponsor the Youth Tour, give scholarships and invite young people to be involved in the co-op. Blue Ridge Electric sends up to seven high school students to the nationally-recognized Broyhill Leadership Conference each year as well.

We're not only proud of and grateful to Staci Phipps, we're also pleased that she plans to return to Ashe County. She grew up on a farm and has said many times she hopes to live on a farm. As an officer of the Future Farmers of America, one of her favorite activities, Staci has enjoyed speaking before audiences about the importance of farms. She has won several agricultural awards and studied farm safety. She's active in her church and sings in the choir. Throughout her school career she has made the A or A-B honor roll. I know how much respect she's earned from many adults in our service area. And she's a lot of

fun. This girl can make you laugh about anything.

Staci will be meeting with our Youth Tour delegates this month to help prepare them for their trip to Washington. I hope we have some Youth Leadership Council candidates among them. (We've had three winners in recent years.)

When the North Carolina Youth Tour members return later this month, I know we will have a whole new set of leaders to continue the professional, ethical and community-oriented service that cooperatives provide.

Douglas W. Johnson is chief executive officer of Blue Ridge Electric, a cooperative serving more than 66,000 households and businesses in Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga, Caldwell and parts of Avery, Alexander and Wilkes counties.

Duane Salstrand



Staci Phipps speaking to electric cooperative leaders in Raleigh last March.



A special bus stop on Shiloh Road

I am 67 and retired two years ago as a long-haul truck driver for Yellow Corporation. I was a driver for 32 years, six months and 28 days, a safe driver for over 3 million miles. I have three children and six grandchildren. I am a U.S. Navy veteran and member of American Legion Post No. 65.

I have lived in Statesville almost five years. At one point I saw the school kids on my street standing in inclement weather waiting for the school bus. I told one of their mothers I would build on my property a shelter to keep them safe and warm. I had it done in time for them to use it this school year.

My neighbors Randy and Tammy Honeycutt provided the wood. Old Forge Metals in Troutman furnished the metal for the roof, door and trim. Statesville Glass and Mirror furnished the plexiglass for windows.

We ran a 160-foot cable underground from my house. I installed a brass lamp on the outside next to the main road and a lamp inside with a pull chain, plus a small portable heater with a custom-built base and an on-off switch.

The shelter has three windows including one on the door so they can see the bus coming. There is a cushioned bench seat for three, and room for three to stand. It has rubber mats, a wall mirror, a trash can (supplied by Linda Ezell), a clock, temperature gauge and a heavy-duty slide bolt for inside the door.

I keep my eye on them every morning and at about 7:10 a.m. I turn on the power, then turn it off as soon as they leave.

The power comes from EnergyUnited.

Thomas G. Stanley
Statesville
Oneamerica04@earthlink.net

A spring ritual

If you ever find yourself passing through Lexington on I-85 about the second weekend in March, pull off at exit 94. Turn south onto Old 64 and you will see something you've either never seen or haven't seen in a good while. Every year at this time, you'll see three generations—Dwight Hedrick, Lowell Hedrick, Mike Swing (whose son leases the property from the Berrier family)—and friends from the Hedrick's Grove area with their teams of Belgians and mules to turn over the land the old-fashioned way.

D. Kinney
Lexington
EnergyUnited



The speed of moving electrons

As a teacher of physics, I am always concerned when I see a scientifically incorrect statement. In the editorial on page 4 of the May issue ["How Safe Can You Get"], Michael Gery writes that "current moves at about 186,000 miles per second." However, current is defined as moving electric charge. The charge carriers in household copper wire are electrons and their drift velocity is at most 2 or 3 millimeters per second—a far cry from the speed of light at 186,000 miles per second. By contrast, it is a spreading electric field that travels at the speed of light in a vacuum, and only a bit slower in a material medium. This explains why a current begins to flow everywhere throughout a circuit almost immediately when the switch is thrown: the applied potential difference sets up an electric field within the wire at about the speed of light. This is probably what Mr. Gery wanted to say. The speed of a spreading electric field is quite distinct from the speed of the current (the moving electrons).

Ken Morgan
Fayetteville

Additions and Corrections

The photos in our feature on North Carolina's gems and minerals ["North Carolina Treasures Unearthed," April 2005] were by Jeff Scovil.

The Web site address for the Denton Area Chamber was omitted from our "Experience North Carolina" guide [April 2005]. It is www.dentonnorthcarolina.com

The e-mail address for Trinity Ent. in Granite Falls, makers of Christian cross jewelry, ["Carolina Country Store," April 2005] is cbowen@nc.rr.com

CONTACT US

Web site: www.carolinacountry.com
E-mail: Carolina.country@ncemcs.com
Phone: (919) 875-3062
Fax: (919) 878-3970
Mail: 3400 Sumner Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27616

LEGENDS OF JACK DANIEL'S® SHOT GLASS COLLECTION



Glasses at left, the 1913 Gold Medal Commemorative glass and the Old No. 7 Black Label glass. Display shown smaller than actual size of 17" high by 14 1/2" wide.

The inside story on Jack Daniel's® is on the outside of these fine glasses.

There's a bit of history in every sip of Jack Daniel's®. It's a history that goes back to 1866, when Jack Daniel first opened his distillery. A history that includes many famous whiskies, and many famous whiskey bottles.

Friends of Mr. Jack can now enjoy his fine work in an equally fine collection of shot glasses inspired by these legendary bottles and decanters. There are 18 shot glasses in all, each with a style and a story all its own.

We think you'll enjoy these "inside stories" about Jack Daniel's. Almost as much as you'll enjoy wrapping your fingers around each historic glass. Some are pewter, some are glass, some are sparkling crystal. But they're all satisfying to hold in the hand.

To show off your collection of all 18 shot glasses, there's a handsome display. Our name is at the top, on wood from one of our very own whiskey barrels.



The "Whittling" glass is taken from a *Scenes from Lynchburg* bottle.

If you'd like to subscribe to the *Legends of Jack Daniel's Shot Glass Collection*, we'd be pleased to send you one imported glass a month. The price is just \$12.95 per glass, and the display is included at no added cost (shipping charges apply). To subscribe, fill out the coupon and mail it to us. We'll do the rest.

©2005 Jack Daniel's. All rights reserved. Your Friends at Jack Daniel's remind you to drink responsibly.



"ALL GOODS WORTH PRICE CHARGED"

Jack Daniel's Limited guarantees your complete satisfaction. If you are not satisfied with any purchase, for any reason, we will gladly return your money.

MAIL THIS FORM WITHIN 30 DAYS

JACK DANIEL'S® LIMITED

P.O. Box 7777, Lynchburg TN 37352-7777

I do indeed wish to subscribe to the *Legends of Jack Daniel's Shot Glass Collection*, and receive my 18 shot glasses at the rate of one a month.

I understand that no payment is required now. Bill me just \$12.95* per glass and send the custom display at no added cost. I may cancel my subscription at any time.

* Plus \$4.25 per glass for shipping (\$12.98 for the display). Orders subject to acceptance. Appropriate sales tax will be added.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL. _____ E-MAIL _____

S3828050

"My 8-pound Oreck XL®. It cleans the air as you vacuum your floors!"



SAND DISAPPEARS. PET HAIR IS GONE. DUST AND DUST MITES ARE HISTORY AND YOU'LL BREATHE EASIER KNOWING IT'S AN ORECK XL.

Hi, I'm David Oreck. It's common knowledge that household dust carries germs, pollen, dander, mold spores, bacteria — things you don't want your family breathing in. That's why I've created the 8-pound Oreck XL. It's the standard by which all other

vacuums will be judged. Because in performance, ease of use, reliability, durability and value for your money, it stands alone. Add in a 50% improvement in air filtration and it's easily one of the most advanced vacuum cleaners money can buy. It picks up everything in one sweep, and then traps 99.9% of all harmful allergens down to 0.3 microns. That's 1/250th the width of a human hair. (Bacteria measures 0.4 to 10 microns. Mold spores are 10 to 100 microns.) There's never a cloud of dust in your face, or foul odor with my XL Upright! I guarantee it.

WITH ORECK, YOU GET A COMPLETE SYSTEM.

Free with purchase of the XL is my \$165 hypo-allergenic Housekeeper® Compact Canister. It's great for ceilings, furniture, closets, and it's a great car vac, too. It's Strong Enough To Pick Up A 16-lb. Bowling Ball.™

Try it risk free, and we'll pay the shipping. A \$29.95 value!



SAVE TIME AND ENERGY THE ORECK WAY.

My 8-pound Oreck XL lets you breeze through housework. Stairs are a snap. You glide from room to room. And you'll use 1/3rd the electricity of virtually any other brand. In fact, an Oreck XL will actually pay for itself over its lifespan in energy savings.

3 FREE TUNE-UPS AND A 10-YEAR HOUSING WARRANTY.

My Oreck XL guarantee is so incredible, you'll wish your car had it. Odds are you'd go through three other vacuums in the time you own one Oreck XL. I'll also give you 3 free tune-ups to keep it running like new. That's a \$90 savings. Who else offers all that? But that's not all.

TRY IT RISK FREE AND THIS \$130 IRON IS YOUR FREE GIFT.

My Cordless Iron is yours to keep when you try my amazing 8-pound vacuum in your own home risk free for 30 days. There's no obligation. I pay all shipping! Even the phone call is free.

Free \$130 Iron!
Just for trying my
Oreck XL Upright.



**Free \$165
Housekeeper
Compact
Canister**

For everything above the floor, my Oreck 5-pound. Housekeeper Canister is yours free with purchase of an amazing 8-lb. Oreck XL.

**You get
all three!**

1-888-767-8972 ext. CT036

Risk Free 30-Day Home Trial

CT036

- ☐ Please call me to arrange a free 30-day trial of the Oreck XL® and send me a \$130 Oreck Cord Free Speed Iron® just for trying the XL. I understand I will receive the Housekeeper® Compact Canister free with purchase and the shipping (a \$29.95 value) is free.
- ☐ Yes, I would like more information on the amazing 8-pound Oreck XL, and include details of Oreck's 12-month Interest Free Payment Plan.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Tel(_____) _____

e-mail _____

optional

Call 1-888-767-8972 or visit oreck.com

ORECK

Nothing gets by an Oreck®

Oreck Direct, LLC 100 Plantation Road, New Orleans, LA 70123

PBM6R

©2005 ORECK HOLDINGS, LLC. All Rights Reserved. All word marks, logos, product configurations and registered trademarks are owned and used under the authority of Oreck Holdings, LLC.

Energy policy and economics headline the statewide annual meeting of cooperatives

Electric cooperative board members and managers focused on trends in energy policy and pricing this spring during the annual meeting of the cooperatives' state organizations held in Raleigh. Besides annual reports and elections, discussion topics included today's energy markets, government legislation, the transmission grid and pricing probabilities.

Roger Gale, energy forecast consultant and CEO of GF Energy, said utilities should work to enact comprehensive energy legislation that protects customer interest, and he said co-ops are the best of all those involved when it comes to representing consumers. He said there is a major need for reinvesting in infrastructure, including power plants and transmission systems. Energy supply and prices, he said, are increasingly affected by the needs of such nations as China, India and Brazil.

Dave Tudor is president of ACES Power Marketing, a consortium of energy cooperatives including North Carolina's, that engages in energy asset management and wholesale-level trading. Recent overbuilding of natural gas plants, he said, led to a tripling of natural gas prices, causing price volatility and a slowing of plant construction. He advised cooperatives to stay the course, invest in technology and continue to expand their customer base. Reliance on several sources of power will enhance stability, he said. Transmission systems nationally have not been upgraded, he said, and that has become an urgent matter.

Tudor said cooperatives are well positioned for the future because of their traditional regard for business morals and ethics, their access to low-cost generators and solid growth. He said one of the cooperatives' strengths is their practice of working together as a group: "We can't scatter ourselves into 900 pieces."

ELECTIONS

The following people were elected to offices in the cooperatives' statewide organizations.



Michael E.C. Gery

At the annual meeting of the electric cooperative statewide organizations, Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue commended co-ops for their long-time support of military bases and their personnel stationed in North Carolina. As Gov. Mike Easley's coordinator for base realignment and closure issues, Perdue asked co-op representatives to contact congressional leaders in the quest to keep the bases here.

North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives

Walton J. Fulcher, Cape Hatteras EC, president; Frederick A. Tedder, Brunswick EMC, vice president; Morris McClellion, Central EMC, secretary-treasurer.

The Executive Committee includes the officers and:

- One-year terms: Johnnie J. Chalmers, Central EMC; Jeffrey Loven, French Broad EMC.
- Two-year terms: R. B. Sloan, Jr., EnergyUnited; Richard H. Johnson, Pee Dee EMC.
- Three-year terms: Bob J. Tucker, Haywood EMC; J. Dean Carpenter, Rutherford EMC.

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation

J. Ronald McElheney, Jones-Onslow EMC, president; Buddy G. Creed, South River EMC, vice president; R. W. "Chip" Leavitt Jr., Brunswick EMC, secretary-treasurer.

The Executive Committee includes the officers and:

- One-year terms: William H. Stacy, Tideland EMC; Roy Ed Jones Jr., Wake EMC.
- Two-year terms: Norman Sloan, Haywood EMC; B. L. Starnes, Union Power Cooperative.
- Three-year terms: L. A. Harris, Albemarle EMC; Carl W. Kornegay, Jr., Tri-County EMC.

Tarheel Electric Membership Association

L. Calvin Duncan, Brunswick EMC, president; Richard R. Grady, Tri-County EMC, vice president; Norman Sloan, Haywood EMC, secretary-treasurer.

Board members elected were:

- One-year terms: B. L. Starnes, Union Power Cooperative; Richard R. Grady, Tri-County EMC; Mark A. Suggs, Pitt & Greene EMC.
- Two-year terms: Norman Sloan, Haywood EMC; Marvin L. Poythress, Piedmont EMC; L. Calvin Duncan, Brunswick EMC.
- Three-year terms: Michael S. Beasley, Surry-Yadkin EMC; Dale F. Lambert, Randolph EMC; Jeffrey S. Edwards, Albemarle EMC.

Farm electrical safety is never out of season

The risk of electrocution remains one of the greatest hazards on today's farms. Farmers and their employees should be particularly alert to dangers working near overhead power lines and related equipment.

"Make sure everyone knows the location of overhead power lines and remind workers to keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them," says Molly Hall, executive director of Safe Electricity, a public awareness program created and supported by a coalition organizations, including electric cooperatives, educators and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety.

"Keep in mind, the minimum 10 foot distance is a 360-degree rule—below, to the side and above lines," says Hall. "It may take a little more time, but ensuring proper clearance can save lives."

Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole or a truck.

Here are some safety tips for farm work:

- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, use a spotter to help ensure that contact is not made with a line.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
- Avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines.

- Be aware of antennas for your tractor's radio or communication system.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- When performing other farm chores, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines.
- Non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Do not try to clear storm-damage debris and limbs near or touching power lines or near fallen lines.
- If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the cooperative utility to fix it. Don't do it yourself. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral, but when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption and make the guy wire dangerous.
- Call the local underground utility locator service before excavating or digging.



WHERE IS THIS?



This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by July 1 with your name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

By e-mail: Carolina.country@ncemcs.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country? P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our August issue, will receive \$25.

¿En dónde se ubica este lugar?

La fotografía muestra una vista rural del estado de Carolina que se encuentra en el territorio de servicio de la compañía Touchstone Energy. Si usted sabe en dónde se ubica el lugar que aparece en la foto, envíe su respuesta antes del 1º de julio anotando su nombre, dirección, número telefónico y el nombre de su cooperativa de electricidad. También la puede enviar por correo electrónico a:

Carolina.country@ncemcs.com; o bien, por correo ordinario a:

Where in Carolina Country? P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611

El ganador, que será seleccionado al azar y anunciado en nuestra publicación de agosto, recibirá \$25.



The Carolina Country Fresh store off Hwy. 64 in Robersonville is the latest in a long line of Roberson family ventures. Family members there recently were (from left) Deann, Josh, Kenneth Sr. and his wife Bennette, Kip and Kenneth Jr. Hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays 1 to 6 p.m.

A good, old FARM FAMILY

For four generations, the Robersons of Martin County have grown with the times

Text and photos by Michael E.C. Gery

At a time when more and more of our farm products come from corporations, it's good to know that family farms are still with us. Corporate agriculture has its place and effectiveness in North Carolina and throughout the nation, but one thing corporate farms can't grow is character. If you know a good, old farm family, you know what I mean.

The Roberson family of Robersonville in Martin County is one of those good, old farm families. Soon after they began walking and talking, Josh and Kenneth "Kip" Roberson 3rd, now in their 20s, learned farming from their dad, Kenneth Jr., who learned it from his dad, Kenneth Sr., who learned it from his dad—all in the same place. At one point or another they each went out to the old "family tree" in the woods off one of their fields and carved their name in that tree. Kenneth Sr., who says he still sleeps in the room where he was born, for his 80th birthday this year bought some more farmland nearby. He buys it when the buying looks good, and over the years the family acquired acreage from Conetoe to Bethel to Gold Point. Along the way they gave a name to their family farming operation: "Scattered Acres."

Josh and Kip learned even more at North Carolina State University, and you can tell that they already apply contemporary business thinking and methods to their work. Their dad picked up some off-the-farm education, too, at Pembroke. "Schooling is OK," their granddad told me. "But it's not worth anything unless you get out here and use common sense." That sense comes from understanding the place you're farming and responding carefully to change. Even when he was a chicken farmer as a young man, Kenneth H. Roberson knew not to count his chickens before they were hatched. But once they did hatch he counted them closely. He knew his chickens so well that when he'd haul those broilers to a weighing station he had already calculated in his head to the pound what the scales would say even before he drove onto them,

and if they didn't say it he knew there was something wrong with the scales and would get weighed again. The senior Roberson also knew not to put all his eggs into one basket. This family has had a feed mill and owned a tobacco warehouse for more than 50 years. Today his sons, Kenneth Jr. and Henry, grow cotton, tobacco, soybeans, wheat, peanuts, strawberries, blueberries and produce. They operate greenhouses. His son, Tim, owns The Fillin' Station, a popular restaurant and catering business in Robersonville.

"If you do anything in moderation, you'll be all right," the elder Roberson says with a grin. "Even tobacco. Anything can kill you if you overdo it."

He adds that it helps to enjoy what you do and to have a wife and family working along with you. All that seems to be going on at the Roberson farm. Everyone gets involved in one way or another.

Kenneth Sr. learned to appreciate a good day's work early in his life after his duty as an infantryman in World War II. He was left for dead and remained unconscious for three days after his unit fell victim to an explosion. Doctors told him he wouldn't be able to walk, among other things. But he came back to the farm and never quit, even when Bennette Wilson went off to New York City to become a model. He went up there and carried her back to marry him.

How do the Robersons decide when to change directions at their farm? Kenneth Sr. says that in the early going, they just changed when they felt like it. "At that time we didn't have much," he told me. "So we didn't have much to lose." The farm began as a "four-horse farm," he explained, meaning that they worked about 80 acres, 20 per mule.

Kenneth Jr. says he never thought twice about being a farmer. "It's what I've always done." As a relatively small farm, there always was plenty that had to be done. "This job is here 24 hours. And it has its own kind of benefits."

The Robersons left the chicken business when the corporations began setting the rules and calling the shots. "After that, you were no longer independent," Ken says. Tobacco farming followed its own wavy course, subjecting farmers to strict contracts with the big tobacco companies, as the federal government set quotas on what you could grow while supporting the price you could get. Although the quota and price support system has been eliminated, the Robersons decided to continue growing tobacco on about 100 acres. But in 1999, Kenneth Sr. closed the Hardees Tobacco Warehouse that he had owned and run since 1946. When tobacco farmers had to contract with corporations instead of growing independently, there was no need for the auctions that had been such a large part of farm life.

Another major upheaval that affected not only the Robersons but all of Robersonville was the new four-lane divided state Highway 64 that bypassed the town when it opened a few years ago. The highway was planned to come right through some of the Roberson farmland. Ken and Vickie Roberson just shake their heads sadly when they remember those days. The woods where their kids would run and play—the same woods that grew the "family tree" all the boys carved their name in—would be gone. (They managed to save that tree, though.) The route was slated to go through some families' houses. A rare Republican at the time (he lost an election for state Commissioner of Agriculture to Jim Graham in 1976 by a landslide), Kenneth Sr. sat on the state Board of Transportation during the Holshouser and Martin administrations. He worked as best he could to move the highway's route so that no family would fare any worse or better than another. Even so, many of the businesses that once relied on the old Highway 64 traffic have closed. Bennette Roberson's children's clothing store is

still open downtown and so is The Fillin' Station restaurant.

Another venture they steered into not long ago—a roadside produce stand and pick-your-own strawberries field along the old Highway 64—is seeing far less traffic these days. The action is out along the new Highway 64. The Handi Mart gas station and convenience store that used to be just east of town moved into a new building at the exit cloverleaf onto Highway 903. So did the Chinese restaurant, the Family Favorites restaurant and the ABC Store that had been in town. Now there's also a Food Lion, a McDonald's, a pizza place, a video store and a Dollar Store.


As they have for generations, the Roberson family looked at options to help adapt to the times. Josh began monitoring the activity around the ramps at the new exit. It's one of those easy-on, easy-off highway exits, and it has great visibility from the highway itself. By this past spring the Handi Mart was reporting between 4,000 and 5,000 customers over their 24-hour cycle. The location of the Robersonville-Hamilton exit is about halfway between Raleigh and the Outer Banks. Josh figured a produce store might work here. And so, Carolina Country Fresh was born.

The simple building made of rough-cut pine and poplar with a red tin roof resembles a barn inside, where fresh fruits and vegetables are set out in baskets and on tables. As usual, the whole Roberson family has become involved with the Carolina Country Fresh store. Vickie Roberson's jams have a place of honor along one wall. Aunt Beverly Roberson's pottery is on display in there, along with aunt Joy's framed photographs and grandmother Haislip's hand-painted glass. Deann Parker, a nursing student from Bethel who will marry Josh in October, is the latest addition. She keeps the place stocked and looking good and is pursuing marketing avenues such as the state's Goodness Grows program. Carolina Country Fresh will carry local produce, including berries, squash, cabbage, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes and sweet corn. They'd like everything to have a North Carolina link: honey, peanuts, sweet potatoes, flowers, wheat straw, pumpkins, mums, Christmas trees.

As Deann and Josh tidied up the little store recently, I asked Josh's father if he thinks his grandchildren will someday farm the Roberson scattered acres. He said, "They will if they ride with their daddies like these boys did and their daddies take them in that direction."



"This job is here 24 hours," says Ken Roberson (right), with his son Josh. "And it has its own kind of benefits."



Earl Hendrix of Raeford uses soy biodiesel on his farm. He chairs the grain growers association which is behind the facility to be built in Mount Olive for producing local soy biodiesel.

Photo by Jim Wilder

Soybean Energy

North Carolina soy biodiesel is catching on as a locally-produced fuel

By Sidney Cruze

At Edward Holmes' Exxon on Roxboro Road in Durham, Pump No. 7 stands in line with the other gas pumps, waiting for someone to pull in and fill 'er up. But unlike the other pumps, No. 7's front panel shows a blond boy standing amidst a field of yellow flowers. Close by, a sign reads "Just Pump and Go," "Support our Farmers," and "Protect our Environment" in green letters. And the pump's nozzle will fit in your tank, but it won't give you unleaded gasoline. Pump No. 7 delivers only Biodiesel B20.

B20 is diesel fuel made with 20 percent biodiesel, a petroleum-free fuel made from renewable sources such as soybean oil. Only four pumps in the state sell B20, but together with 19 other biodiesel distributors they deliver 1.5 million gallons of the fuel each year. Soybean farmers are some of biodiesel's biggest champions. Soybeans are the perfect rotation crop in North Carolina, and one bushel can produce 1.5 gallons of biodiesel fuel. As long as demand for it continues to increase, this alternative fuel promises to be a boon for the 22,000 farmers who grow soybeans in our state.

Making biodiesel is not complicated. If you take 10 gallons of any vegetable oil, then add one gallon of methyl alcohol and some sodium hydroxide—commonly known as boxed lye—you

create 10 gallons of biodiesel fuel and one gallon of glycerin. The lye acts as the catalyst for the chemical process called transesterification, which replaces the mixture's glycerin molecule with an alcohol molecule.

The end product is a clear yellow-gold liquid that is non-toxic and biodegradable. "You can use it on your hands, like you would a lotion," says Jim Wilder from the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association. "You can even drink it. It won't hurt you."

Wilder can quickly list biodiesel's benefits. The fuel is 10 times less toxic than table salt. It mixes completely with regular diesel and doesn't separate, making blends like B2, B5 and B20 easy to use in regular diesel engines. It is an excellent lubricant, so it enhances engine performance. Engines running on biodiesel emit fewer hydrocarbons, which means less smog and ozone in the air, and biodiesel doesn't contain sulfur like regular diesel does. (Sulfur oxide and sulfate emissions are two major components of acid rain.) Finally, biodiesel is made from renewable sources grown here in the United States, so it reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

As executive vice president of the state's Soybean Producers Association, Wilder is most interested in promoting the economic advantages biodiesel offers for North Carolina farmers.

"I want to help farmers have a better life," he says. "Our goal, and the goal of the national soybean association, is to get as many distributors as possible to make biodiesel available to growers, then have them use it. This increased use will enhance income for soybean farmers by approximately \$5 per acre."

Wilder gets his numbers from a U.S. Department of Agriculture study indicating that if all farmers used B2 to run their farm equipment, the increase in soybean demand would raise national soybean prices by 17 cents per bushel. In North Carolina, farmers grow an average of 34 bushels of soybeans per acre, so that would be a \$5.78 increase in income per acre.

Wilder estimates that today more than 300 North Carolina farmers use a B2 or B5 blend. They started buying biodiesel locally in February 2003, when Brian Potter became the state's first biodiesel distributor. Potter's company, Potter Oil & Tire Company Inc. in Aurora (served by Tideland Electric), is now one of two suppliers in the state. The Grain Growers Cooperative is the other. Potter gets the fuel shipped here in 25,000-gallon rail cars from West Central Soy in Ralston, Iowa, and supplies vehicle fleets, such as those employed by the N.C. Department of Transportation and the cities of Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Charlotte. Almost every month, he sells more biodiesel than he did the month before.

"We get calls every day from farmers who want to use it," Potter says, "Nobody is twisting their arm, even though the costs are higher."

The price for local fuel

Perhaps the only down side to biodiesel is that it does cost more than petroleum diesel. Users will pay an extra two cents for each percent of biodiesel in a gallon of fuel. For example, if you buy 10 gallons of B20 (20 percent biodiesel), you'll pay 40 cents more per gallon than you would pay for regular diesel fuel. If you use 100 percent biodiesel fuel, or B100, you will pay \$2 more per gallon.

As an incentive to use it, a tax credit soon will be available for businesses that blend and distribute biodiesel. The tax credit will reimburse users for half the extra price they pay.

"The credit will be a benefit to individual users if the dealers pass that savings on to us," says James Fletcher, a Pasquotank County farmer and member of Albemarle Electric, who is president of the Soybean Producers Association.

Fletcher began using a B5 blend of biodiesel in his tractors and combines two years ago. He's convinced the fuel's high lubricity will help decrease the wear and tear on his equipment.

Like many farmers, Fletcher buys his fuel from a distributor who puts the correct proportions of diesel and biodiesel together in one container and lets them mix together during the delivery drive. The technique is called splash blending. The B5 is completely blended by the time it gets to Fletcher's farm, where he stores it in a 2,000-gallon tank.

In Iredell County, soybean grower Henry Walker uses a B5 blend because it is a renewable fuel that won't harm the environment. "It breaks down in the same time it takes sugar to decompose, plus it has the best health rating of all fuels," he says.

Pitt County Memorial Hospital uses biodiesel in its ambulance fleet to protect the health of accident victims.

"Ambulances often must stay at accidents with their engines idling, and people end up breathing the toxic diesel fumes," Wilder says. His organization awarded the hospital \$55,000 to help cover the costs of a building a storage tank and fuel island for the biodiesel fuel.

The Soybean Producers Association is not the only state group promoting biodiesel. In 2002, the Golden LEAF Foundation announced a \$10 million investment in a proposed biodiesel plant for eastern North Carolina. Land has been sited in Mount Olive, and Wilder has hopes the plant will open within 12 months.

"It would be one of the few plants on the east coast," he says. "When it opens we expect it to produce 20 million gallons each year, not just from soybeans, but from all seed oils."

On a more personal level, Walker would like to see more distributors in the state, so he spends his free time making presentations about biodiesel's benefits throughout the Piedmont. "It is one of those things that has come along that is really good," he says. "I could talk about it all day."

One of the biggest supporters in the state is Rep. Joe Tolson, representing Edgecombe and Wilson counties. He has actively promoted the fuels on the state's Energy Policy Council and has connected the producers with state government users, such as the Department of Transportation fleets. "There are excellent possibilities for producing and using both biodiesel and ethanol fuels in our state," he says. "These are energy sources that come from our own area. It can mean a lot to farmers and the economy in general."

Sidney Cruze is a Carolina Country contributing writer. She can be reached at sidneywrites@verizon.net

For more information:

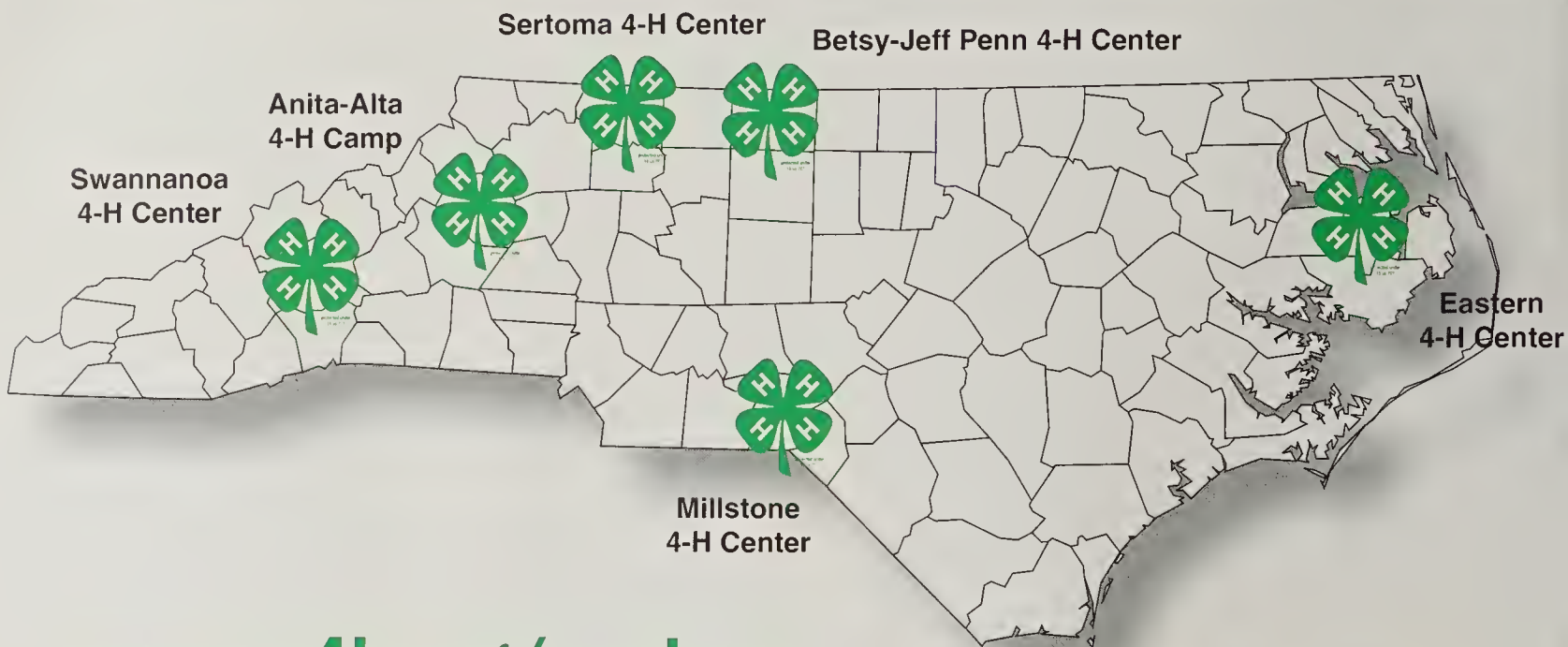
North Carolina Soy Producers Assn.
211 Six Forks Road, Suite 102
Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone: (919) 839-5700
Web: www.ncsoy.org

Jim Wilder



Curtis Potter and his son Brian of Pamlico County are regional distributors of biodiesel fuel. Curtis is shown here at the plant in Aurora where biodiesel is blended.

North Carolina's 4-H Camps and Centers



www.nc4h.org/centers
(919) 515-3244

**Six Scenic
Locations**

Programs and Centers are open to all youth (boys and girls) ages 6-17. Facilities are available for off-season use.



POOL Time is...

Family Time!

**100%
Financing!**
(w.a.c.)



FREE

Installation!

w/purchase
of Bermuda
King Pools

offer ends: 7/1/05

FREE

Pool Party

\$150 Value!

w/purchase
of Bermuda
King Pools

offer ends: 7/1/05

FREE

Pool Vacuum

w/purchase
of Bermuda
King Pools

offer ends: 7/1/05

The Bermuda King

**3~DAY
INSTALLATION!**

POOLS! PRICES PLUNGING!

The Millenium
Huge 31'X19' O.D.
Family Size Pool

\$888

INCLUDES:
Sundeck,
Fence, Filter
& Ladders!

Installation, Shipping & Handling optional/extra



Ingrounds also available

Coupons may
be combined

Homeowners Only! Call 24/7!

FREE BACKYARD SURVEY!

1-800-316-4104



Visit us at: www.tropical-pools.com



Life on the farm

Judging from the number of people who sent us thoughts about living on a farm, we can say that the family farm has a lot to do with forming the North Carolina character. And in many places across the state, the family farm is alive and well and growing the same character. Even those of you who admitted to endless hard work and scarce luxuries agreed that living on a farm builds strong wills, strong backs and a true understanding of nature.

It's fun, too. Seven of us kids grew up in farm country, and I remember the good times that came after feeding the animals, weeding the gardens, cleaning the barn, mowing, raking, and picking the corn, squash, cherries and strawberries.

—Michael E.C. Gery

Close to home

My dad has a small farm in Ashe County (pictured above) that I grew up on. We had a few milk cows, some chickens and a hog. I liked to gather the eggs and feed the hog. I didn't always get to the house with the eggs. Sometimes I could fall or drop some eggs and break them. I was a little afraid of the cows. My dad would stack the hay and my brother and I would carry the shocks on hay poles.

After I got married I moved about two miles away. My husband has a bigger farm and we grow tobacco and raise cattle. I am still afraid of the cows. I love being outside working in our garden, the tobacco or putting up hay. We can get very busy at times through the summer. Living on a farm is hard work, but I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

Mary Ellis
Lansing, Blue Ridge EMC

Catching something for supper

I was born Oct. 12, 1956. My daddy was 50 years old at the time. Behind our house was an old house where we would take off tobacco and eat boiled peanuts. Daddy had chickens which he raised from bitties.

One day we were in the old house tending tobacco and a chicken got out of the fence. Daddy said throw something at it. I threw a tobacco stick at it. Back then and still now, my favorite food was chicken pastry. By accident, I killed the chicken. Mama dressed the chicken that night, and we had chicken pastry.

Daddy left me on April 20, 1993, after suffering from Alzheimer's and being bed-ridden for one and a half years. This is a tribute to my daddy, Berry Mitchell.

Doris Burroughs
Mount Olive, Tri-County EMC



Thanks to everyone who sent in stories. You can see more stories on our Web site. Next month we'll publish your memories of the first meal you ever made. [Deadline was May 15.] See the remaining themes and rules of our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series on page 18.



A farmer since day one

Trey is a very happy little farm boy. He loves tractors, cows, hay, tobacco and helping with all repairs and chores associated with the farm. As you can tell, he is crazy about John Deeres and has numerous play tractors and equipment. Just look at the smile on his face and you can see that little Trey enjoys being in the tobacco field with the adults.

A common day for Trey is going with DD (grandfather) to the fields and actually harvesting the leaves like the men. Once the trailers are loaded with the tobacco leaves, he instructs the tractor driver how to go get it to the barn.

When he was less than a year old he began going with his father and DD to feed the cows. We had an orphan female calf born this past winter that Trey named Sophia. He could hardly wait to get home from preschool to feed her the bottle. He and Sophia have become good buddies.

It is so amazing to us that this little 3-year-old knows so much about farming. He and his DD spend many hours on the floor with the little tractors playing farming.

*Lynwood Clayton
Rougemont, Piedmont EMC*

The family that farms together

One of the best things that I remember about living on a farm was having family and friends working together and helping one another. If someone had corn to put up, all the relatives would come together to husk corn. We worked all afternoon. Then we had supper together and later sang or played games or visited. Helping each other was fun.

My first butchering experience was at Grandma's with all the aunts and girl cousins. Butchering 50 old hens on an assembly line was fun and easy. We laughed and visited as we worked. We young girls learned by watching and helping where we could.

My grandfather, father and uncles shared the work of plowing, disking, planting and harvesting. They always tried to finish the wheat harvest by July 4. Then we would all celebrate with homemade ice cream and fireworks. These close times of togetherness taught us responsibility and cooperation and a sense of belonging.

*Eileen Penner
Harmony, EnergyUnited*

Real neighbors

Although I didn't grow up or live on a farm, I would like to share this story about Carteret County farmers with you and your readers.

Poor, hungry and living in a shack near some tobacco farmers is how we grew up in Carteret County. One of the farmers also had a small vegetable field for his personal use. With a quarter or dollar in hand, we pulled a small wagon to the vegetable farmer's home and asked him if we could buy some vegetables. He scratched his head, looked at my brothers and me, saw the wagon and then told us to get as many cabbage heads and string beans as we wanted.

The next year those tobacco fields near the house turned into vegetable fields. We ate a lot of potatoes, corn, cabbage and string beans, and sometimes we didn't pay the farmers for what we took.

Many years later, I went back to those farmers and confessed, apologized, asked for their forgiveness and told them I wanted to pay for the vegetables. They talked among themselves, looked at me, and then smiled. One of them stood up and said, "Linda, have you ever wondered why we planted vegetables near your home and not tobacco? We knew about your family's situation, and we wanted to make sure you children got your bellies full."

*Linda Thompson
Havelock, Carteret-Craven Electric*



Earning his keep

I was the last of seven children to be born on a small farm in Wake County in 1940. My father's belief was that every living thing on the farm had to work to justify its existence or it did not belong. If a cat would not chase a mouse, it had to go. If a dog would not run a rabbit or tree a squirrel, it had to go.

For my seventh birthday, my father bought a goat. In his blacksmith shop he made a two-wheel cart and harness for the goat. I was then given the responsibility to do errands around the neighborhood and go to the local country store and back. As time passed and I got older, my interest in the transportation changed and the goat and cart sat idle. My dad could not bear the thought of the goat not earning his keep, so back to the blacksmith shop he went to make a special harness for the goat to pull a garden push plow. From that day forward until his death, the goat's chore was to pull this plow while my dad plowed the one-acre garden we had every year.

*Rommy Campbell
Littleton, Halifax EMC*



Learning early

There is no greater pleasure than raising a child on a farm. In today's fast-paced society, children have missed out on the joys of simple living—playing games outside like kick the can, catching fireflies in mayonnaise jars and watching for the barn swallows to know spring has arrived.

I am so fortunate to raise my daughter on the same farm where her great-grandfather toiled 60 years ago, where her grandfather grew a bumper tomato crop and her father learned the lessons of hard work.

My little one enjoys the baby calves that start arriving in March, and helping her grandmother hoe in the garden. I caught this picture of my daughter just after she and Mamaw were starting a new row of corn. As you can tell, she is learning to pick out her own clothes and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Julie Farthing

Banner Elk, Blue Ridge EMC

Getting dirty

Getting dirty on the farm is what I remember most, and what fun it was! After a rain shower, my sister and I would always go outside and shake a small umbrella tree in our front yard. The water came down like a shower. Going barefoot and splashing in the mud puddles was fun. No one noticed how dirty our feet got living on a farm.

We liked to join Daddy in the fields, riding the tractor as he plowed the garden. After a few hours, Daddy would stop, break open a watermelon, and we'd eat it while sitting under the shade of a leafy oak tree. Now our faces were almost as dirty as our feet.

Our next task was to pick blackberries. We'd eat one and put one in the bucket until our tummies and the buckets were full. Now our hands were dirty, too. When we returned with the berries, Momma had a big tub of water, warmed by the sun, ready for us to clean off the dirt from our day on the farm.

We went to bed early because on the farm we always got up early, ready for another day of getting dirty again.

Shirley Lawrence Frank

Lexington, EnergyUnited

Hollerin' for Grandmother

Where I grew up was nothing more than a wide place in the road. We were dairy farmers and lived near my dad's parents. My mother and grandmother were "stay at home wives." They did the child rearing and most of the rest.

It was a known fact to us children that if you wanted to go to Grandmother's house you had to complete two very crucial tasks: You had to convince Mom that Grandmother wanted to see us very badly, and that Grandmother would meet us at the field gate. After a phone call, you completed the first task. Now for the fun part. We would leave our house and climb the hill from the backyard. We would cross the cow pasture and come to our "hollerin spot." From here we could see Grandmother's house. We hollered in unison to let Grandmother know we were there. She would come from the house, her apron strings in the wind, and walk the quarter mile up the dirt drive and meet us. As we passed the milk barn back to the house we would tell her of our adventure, Grandmother "oohing" and "aahing" as if we were world travelers.

Paul Senter

Elkin, Surry-Yadkin EMC

Send us your best Earn \$50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you \$50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

August 2005 What I Learned From My Kids

Sometimes children can teach grown-ups a thing or two.

Deadline: June 15

September 2005 Celebrity Look-alikes

Photos of people who are dead-ringers for someone famous. Digital ones must be 300 dpi and at least 4 by 6 inches.

Deadline: July 15

October 2005 My Favorite Photo

North Carolina people, places, things. Digital ones must be 300 dpi and at least 4 by 6 inches.

Deadline: August 15

November 2005 It's the Thought That Counts

The dumbest gift you ever received.

Deadline: Sept. 15

December 2005 Holiday Mishaps

Those holiday plans that just didn't work out as you hoped they would.

Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616
Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com.
Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

Create Your Own Outdoor Room...In Just Seconds!



SunSetter® shown with optional screenroom

Enjoy your deck or patio bug-free!

**LOW
Factory
Direct
Prices!**

Introducing The Revolutionary SunSetter® Retractable Awning!

If you're tired of having your outdoor enjoyment rained on...baked out...or just plain ruined by unpredictable weather...

At last there is a solution! One that lets you take control of the weather on your deck or patio! It's the incredible SunSetter® Retractable Awning! A simple...easy-to-use...& affordable way to outsmart the weather and start enjoying your deck or patio more...rain or shine!

The SunSetter® transforms your deck or patio into a beautiful "outdoor room". Adding our optional Screen Room to your awning lets you enjoy the outdoors bug-free this summer!

**FREE!
Catalog &
Video or
DVD**

So, stop struggling with the weather...& start enjoying your deck or patio more!

Call for a **FREE Catalog & Video or DVD!** 1-800-876-8060 Ext. 10857

**Opens & Closes In
Less Than 60 Seconds!**



Just unroll your SunSetter — it's quiet and easy!



You choose full sun or total protection in just seconds!

FREE Catalog & Video
Call Toll-Free: 1-800-876-8060 Ext. 10857

☒ **Yes!** Please send your **FREE Catalog & Video or DVD**...including Special Savings now in effect...**TODAY!**
I prefer: ☐ Video ☐ DVD

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-Mail _____

(Important: Be sure to give us your e-mail address to receive our best deals!)

184 Charles Street, Dept. 10857 Malden, MA 02148

Visit us today at www.sunsetter.com

SunSetter®
RETRACTABLE AWNINGS

©2005 SunSetter® Products





Around here, businesses have plenty of power.

In fact, we provide it to them, 24/7. And, because of our consistent performance, we've earned a solid reputation for reliability. In the business world and in the community. So you know you can depend on us to keep your business running like it should. Powerfully.



Restoring the John Deere way of farm life

Text and photos by Mark Brumley

Jerry Neal is known for microchips, but his real passion is John Deere tractors and the farming life they represent. Over the past six years, Neal—one of three co-founders of RF Micro Devices in Greensboro—has assembled a collection of 25 vintage tractors. He keeps them meticulously restored in a private museum in Randolph County.

Beneath Neal's white collar beats the heart of a farm boy, and collecting rare tractors keeps him close to his roots. He lives on a 120-year-old family farm in the hilly countryside of western Randolph County, served by the EnergyUnited cooperative.

"Because of my family and my history of being here when I was a kid, I love the tractors, the farm life, and how they're connected," says the 60-year-old Neal.

John Deere is an American business that has maintained its identity since its founding in 1838, when Vermont blacksmith John Deere moved to the Midwest and invented a self-cleaning plow in 1837. John Deere's growth was closely tied to 19th century farming. Neal points out that during the Great Depression John Deere let farmers skip payments on their tractors until they could get back on their feet. "They could have taken a hard line and repossessed the tractors," Neal said. "I think it was just a fantastic marketing move on their part. It was compassionate, but it was also very smart."

At John Deere's headquarters in Moline, Ill., Neal buys tractors as rusty junkers at auctions. When he's finished restoring them, they look like new. And they run—like a Deere. That includes the oldest tractor in his collection, a 1929 model.

All of Neal's tractors have their own stories. That's one reason he opens the museum only when he's there to act as curator. He tries to open for tour groups and the public from time to time. His favorite visitors are schoolchildren, who each get a John Deere toy as a souvenir. He is working with the Randolph County Tourism Development Authority to open the museum more often.

The tractors are housed in a modern 10,000-square-foot building on the farm. In the glare of museum lights, these green giants take on the aura of art. Like sculptures of agriculture, they capture a moment in time and a need that the manufacturer was trying to satisfy.



Jerry Neal says collecting rare John Deere tractors keeps him close to his farming roots, and the machines are a great investment.



Will Toth, 3, and Kendra Smith, 9, of Sophia get a closer look at one of the John Deere tractors in Jerry Neal's private museum near Asheboro.

For example, one of the machines is a 1958 orchard tractor that looks like something out of an old sci-fi movie. The steering wheel has a cowl to protect the driver, and wheels are covered to keep them from snagging fruit branches. A few steps away are the Hi-Crops, tractors that look a little spindly, with their extra-high clearance to allow farmers to till their fields without damaging crops. Neal said his most valuable tractor is a G Hi-Crop, which he bought at the John Deere auction a few years ago. Just 200 of the tractors were manufactured.

Although Neal said he enjoys restoring the tractors, he hires mechanics for some of his projects. John Briles of Thomasville has restored several.

The tractors in Neal's collection have largely been "put out to pasture," but he said he occasionally takes one out for a special event. He loves antique tractor pulls and even hosted one at his home several years ago that drew 100 tractors and 600 people. Neal said he also likes to drive his tractors in parades.

Some guys' hobbies put them at odds with their wives. But not Neal. His wife, Linda, even attended an auction in his place and ended up buying five tractors—three more than they had planned to bid on. "He said, 'Why did you buy these for?'" she recalled. "Now, he loves them."

Carolina Country contributor Mark Brumley lives in Asheboro. He can be reached at mebrumley@triad.rr.com

To visit Jerry Neal's John Deere Tractor Museum, send him an e-mail at jneal@rfmd.com. The subject line of the e-mail should state "Tractor Museum."

Where's The Buzz?

North Carolina takes action to revive the shrinking honeybee community

Text and photos by Tina L. Lavallee



With losses of wild colonies estimated as high as 95%, N.C. State University is taking action designed not just to restock the state with bees, but with new beekeepers as well.

Spring is here and the trees and flowers are all abuzz, but a familiar face may be missing. A quick look in the garden will reveal a number of insects sipping nectar from blossoms, but the honeybee is probably not among them. North Carolina's honeybee population has been so decimated by the Varroa mite that only people living close to an active beekeeper can count on seeing honeybees in their plantings. With losses of wild colonies estimated as high as 95 percent, the state is teetering on the brink of a serious shortage of these beneficial insects. To prevent a future silent spring, N.C. State University is taking action through a program designed not just to restock the state with bees, but with new beekeepers as well.

The villain in this story is the Varroa mite, a tiny crab-like parasite that preys on honeybees. A native of Southeast Asia, the mites invaded the western United States in the early 1980s and spread eastward, wiping out millions of honeybee colonies that lacked natural resistance to the new pest. By 1989, the mites reached North Carolina and attacked the state's abundant wild bee colonies, virtually eliminating them. "You never hear of anyone finding a bee tree anymore," says long-time Randolph County beekeeper George Byrum. "They've simply vanished."

The mites start their dirty work by hitching a ride on worker bees as they gather nectar and

return to the hive. The mites are so small that the bees themselves are unable to detect and remove them. Once inside the colony's brood chamber, female mites lay eggs that hatch and feed on the developing bee larvae. The infestation is not obvious at first, but as the mite population increases, the bee colony becomes weakened by the lack of new worker bees to gather food and tend the queen. In time, these losses cause the collapse of the colony due to starvation.

Most domestic honeybees are no more immune to the Varroa mite than their wild cousins, so beekeepers also experienced significant losses in the early years of the invasion. It is now recommended that hives be inspected at least five times a year and treated whenever mites are found. This increased maintenance has changed the face of North Carolina beekeeping. In the past, many farmers and gardeners kept one or two hives on the outskirts of their property that they opened just once a year to remove honey. "The bees essentially took care of themselves," says George Byrum. "But the mites put an end to that." Mites crept unnoticed into these lightly-managed hobby colonies, making them among the first to go. Often the bees died without any visible sign to the keeper, who simply found an empty hive box. Discouraged, many of these hobby beekeepers never replaced their bees.

Above: Bees working on a frame of new honey.

"The Varroa mite showed people the difference between keeping bees and being a beekeeper," says Mr. Byrum.

Today, the only honeybee colonies that continue to thrive are those in the care of vigilant individuals who keep the Varroa at bay. Unfortunately, these people are also in short supply. Many of North Carolina's beekeepers are over the age of 60, and there are few new faces joining their ranks. "North Carolina has a very active beekeeping community," says Dr. David Tarpy, assistant professor and Extension apiculturist at N. C. State University. "But there just aren't enough of them."

Dr. Tarpy believes that new blood is the key to reviving the bee population and is exploring ways of attracting first-timers to the art of apiculture. With this goal in mind, N.C. State initiated the New Beekeeper Cost-Sharing Program in February 2005 with funding from the Golden LEAF Foundation. The education/research program will give two colonies of bees, complete with hives, to 250 approved applicants. The applicants are required to join a local beekeeping organization as well as provide regular data on their hives. The bees chosen for the program are a select strain of Russian honeybees that have demonstrated natural resistance to the Varroa mite. Response to the program has been overwhelming, with more than 2,700 applications received for the available 250 spots. It is hoped that participants will be encouraged to make beekeeping a life-long hobby or even a business, thus increasing the overall bee population.

North Carolina has picked a good time to advance the public awareness of honeybees. "There are more bee products available now than ever before," says George Byrum. "You find hive products in all sorts of forms, from soaps and lip balms to candles." The popularity of national brands such as Burt's Bees proves that bees do a lot more than produce honey. However, some of the honeybee's most vital benefits are more subtle.

Gardeners have long been aware of the increased yields in fruit and vegetables due to bee pollination. Now the task of pollination is taking on a crucial role in the development of North Carolina's post-tobacco agricultural economy. The state's bee shortage comes at a time when many tobacco farmers are switching to crops such as cucumbers and melons, which depend on insect pollination for profitable yields. Bees collect pollen grains on their legs as they visit flowers in search of nec-

tar and brush the pollen off inside other flowers along their route, thus allowing fertilization to occur. "Research shows that a single cucumber flower must be visited at least 12 times in order to bear fruit," says Dr. Tarpy. "It's easy to see why the state needs a large, stable number of honeybees."

In the past, crop pollination was easily accomplished by colonies of wild bees, but today's farmers may need to rent hives from commercial pollinators to get the job done. Commercial pollinators often keep hundreds of hives that are leased for a specific period to allow pollination of a grower's crop.

Currently, North Carolina has only a handful of large professional apiaries to handle the growing number of acres in need of pollination. Farmers can hire out-of-state pollination services if necessary, but they hope that new local beekeepers will eventually fill this void as well.

State officials believe that their actions will be enough to avert a potential crisis, but much depends on public participation. The Varroa mite makes it impossible to restock wild colonies, but there is still time to stabilize the bee population and control mite infestation if enough people become involved as beekeepers. The Cost-Sharing Program is a start, but many more interested individuals are needed to bolster the ranks. Only with the support of dedicated caretakers will North Carolina resonate again with the music of the honeybee.

Tina L. Lavalley is a member of Randolph EMC and has written for Mid-Atlantic Farm Chronicle and Country Folks Grower, among other publications.



Above: Randolph County beekeeper George Byrum treating his hives for mites.

Below: Bee larva in the brood chamber. Mites feed on the developing bees, causing a shortage of workers needed to maintain the colony.

How to Start Your Own Buzz



Check with your local Cooperative Extension office to attend one of nine scheduled "bee schools."



Visit the N.C. State Apiculture Dept. at <http://entomology.ncsu.edu/apiculture>



Visit the N.C. State Beekeepers Assn. at www.ncbeekeepers.org



Contact the state apiarist by e-mail at nchoneybees@ncmail.net or by phone at (919) 233-8213.



To locate commercial pollinators, go to www.ncagr.com/beelinked





"Sunnyside"

Art by Bob Timberlake

Lexington-based artist Bob Timberlake has issued a limited-edition reproduction of "Sunnyside" to mark the 35th anniversary of his beginning as a professional artist. Since 1970, his art has been exhibited throughout the world, most of it reflecting the beauty of his native North Carolina. Timberlake also has branched into several areas of design at his gallery.

The Bob Timberlake Gallery in both Lexington and Blowing Rock will display many of his works during the celebration.

The image area of "Sunnyside" is 16½ by 20½ inches. Total area of the print measures 21½ by 25 inches. All are shipped flat.

The price of the signed and numbered prints is \$250, plus \$17.50 tax and \$15 shipping.

The Bob Timberlake Gallery
1714 E Center Street Ext.
Lexington, NC 27292
(800) 244-0095

Embark on a journey to the grand Old South with the CIVIL WAR CONFEDERATE EXPRESS

Locomotive Headlight
Lights Up



Rich with authentic period
artwork and motifs, the *Civil War Confederate
Express* is just the ticket for history buffs.



Southern motifs, like a heroic
portrait of Robert E. Lee,
embellish each car.

All aboard the *Civil War Confederate Express*! This classic railroad train brings you a compelling tribute to the glory and honor of the Old South. It's richly embellished with vignettes of Civil War landmarks, portraits of military heroes, and motifs of period military insignia. An heirloom quality train with impeccably authentic details, it will have you watching in fascination as its old-fashioned steam engine pulls the richly decorated cars chugging around the track.

Begin with Set One, the steam locomotive and coal tender. With its precision detailing and Civil War theme, the 2-6-0 steam engine looks incredible. You will be billed the first of three easy payments of \$23.31* for the Steam Locomotive and Tender before they are sent. Subsequent cars will be billed separately each at the same attractive price and sent about one every other month—including the FREE tracks and power-pack. Don't wait to order. You need *send no money now*, just complete and mail the coupon.

collectibles.today.com Home of Hawthorne Village and All Things Collectible

©2005 Hawthorne Village

78890-B/R

THE CIVIL WAR CONFEDERATE EXPRESS

- Yours at an exceptional low price, Hawthorne Village's exclusive illuminated electric steam train set is precision-scaled
- Richly decorated in red-white-and-blue vignettes that depict the heroic battles and leaders of the Confederacy
- An heirloom quality On 30 scale train: O scale train that runs on HO gauge track
- Power-pack and nickel silver E-Z Track[®] elevated roadbed FREE—a \$60 value

Yes! Please enter my
order for the *Civil War
Confederate Express* illumi-
nated electric train set,
beginning with the Steam
Locomotive and Tender as
described in this announce-
ment. I need **SEND NO
MONEY NOW.**

Limited Time Offer—Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Address

City

State

Zip

Apt. No.

Signature

* Plus a total of \$7.99 shipping and service. Illinois residents add sales tax.
Pending credit approval. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



49073-E67201

Hawthorne Village, 9210 N. Maryland Street, Niles, IL 60714-1322

FREE Tracks and Power-pack—\$60 Value!



YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM

Carolina country if...

From Brian and Suzanne Mitchell, Goldsboro

- Your daddy walked three miles to school uphill both ways.
- You were told as a young'n that you didn't even have a back.
- You know what boiled custard is.
- The highlight of your week was sitting with Mama and Papa on Saturday night watching "Lawrence Welk."
- You used to throw rocks in the air to watch the bats swoop down at them.
- You've been told you're hanging in there like a hair in a biscuit.
- You've put peanuts in a "little cocola."
- You have used a "fly flap."
- You know how long you will be there if you "sit a spell."
- You have shot the moon in a card game.

From Joy Horrell, Garland

- Your mama caught white-faced bumblebees in her hand to show they won't sting, but you were too afraid to try it.
- You picked cucumbers by looking through the vines with a paddle made out of a tobacco stick.
- You had to drive the Farmall while Mama and Daddy picked up corn to feed the hogs.
- To cure your earache, your mama put Vicks in your ear and stuffed in a piece of cotton from an aspirin bottle.
- You and your mama went to the woods huckleberrying every summer and then had to take a quick bath when you got home to wash off the redbugs.
- You would eat cracklins and a fresh baked sweet potato.

From Debbie Ross, Kings Mountain

- The foremen yells out to his men, "Y'all need to be working instead of scratchin' your watch and windin' your butt."

From Greg Talbott, Staley

- You get on an elevator and the next person that comes says, "Mash 3 please."
- You find out when you are grown that an arsh tater is really an Irish potato.

From L.J. "Joe" Crumpler, Mount Olive (formerly of Pikeville)

- You know natives of Pikeville pronounce it "Piiikevull."
- You pronounce Goldsboro "Goldsberle."
- You've been to Dobie Howell's stables or Alton Crawford's store.
- You know Wilber Shirley (Wilber's Barbecue) is from Pinkney.
- You know Martie Ruth Pate McCall (McCall's Barbecue & Seafood) was Miss Aycock 1973.
- You've been to "Junebug" Green's Auto Salvage at Eureka.
- You've watched for the Fremont Light.
- You were a Falconette, Falconaire, Dramacon, or know someone who was.
- You knew the late "Mutt" Satterfield of Tri-County EMC.
- You've played in (or been to) a Church League softball game at Nahunta.
- You fought (or watched) a fight over a girl at a Church League softball game at Nahunta.
- You know Jeffrey Miles Grimes of "The Embers" is a 1970 graduate of Charles B. Aycock High School, and played first chair tenor saxophone in state band competition.

From Christine Atkinson, Elm City

- You killed hogs in the winter and put the meat in the smokehouse.
- You drank water from a bucket at the well.
- You know what silk is on corn.
- Your mother made tater pudding.
- Chili on hotdogs was so good you often ate part of the napkin.
- Mother made cheese biscuits.
- You rode on the back of a pick-up truck with your feet dangling off the tailgate.

From Peggy Mayes, Benson

- You know someone who fell head phomus into the ditch.
- You know someone else who ran pineblank into the wall.

From Kim Tripp, Raleigh (formerly of Arapahoe)

- When you apologized to your daddy for doing something wrong, he said, "Sorry don't feed the bulldog." And you still don't know what he meant.

From Michelle and Wesley Burton, Mocksville

- You can't go into Grandma's house if she is can-nin' and you have your monthly visitor.
- You know sweet potatoes as music roots.
- You tried to suck the honey out of honeysuckers.
- There was always a bowl of cucumbers and onions in vinegar on the table.
- You covered up dinner leftovers with a dishtowel until time for supper.
- Granny's quilts were so heavy you couldn't turn over under them.
- Grandpa had a shanty built into the side of the pack house for summer guests.

From Myrtle L. Mainor, Harrells

- "Hello, Dolly" is not a Broadway musical but a greeting to your mule.
- Labor pains are sore muscles after a long day in the fields.
- Your kiddie pool is also known as a mud puddle.
- Your backyard barbecue is really a cookout and the dogs outnumber the guests.
- Your foot warmer has four legs and barks.
- An ice-cold slurpy is your toothless grandfather eating soup in the winter.
- A Yoohoo is both a chocolate drink and a call to your neighbor.
- A "hot chick" is your lunch in a bucket with a side of biscuits.
- You think concrete evidence means hardened cement left behind after a spill.

From Nancy Nolan

- Sun Drop is a staple in your life.
- Your daddy said to you, "I'm gonna slap you to the middle of next week" when he was mad at you.
- Your momma said, "I wouldn't stay with him long enough for water to get hot," meaning he wasn't worth our time.
- You have strung beans, shelled peas and blanched tomatoes.

From Tammie Wells Schaaf, Core Creek

- In summer as a child you rode your banana bike on your dirt road until after dark.
- You played night games like hide-and-seek, freeze-tag, shadow-tag and baby-in-the-hole with all the neighborhood kids on hot summer nights.
- Your Mom fried wild tiger lily petals for you when they bloomed along the woods edge down the dirt road you lived on.
- You went bottle hunting from the back of an old pick-up down all the dirt roads in your community so you could sell them for a nickel each.
- You went crabbing with a bucket, crabbing line, dip net, chicken necks and back. Then you went home and cleaned 'em with the hose and cooked 'em up in a big iron pot over a fire in your back yard.
- Your whole family went to the sand dump to go swimming in the canal (Core Creek) on Sundays after church.
- You can still find a dirt road to cruise around on.
- You walked a mile to your friend's house to play and when it was time for you to go home your Mom would whistle for you.
- You went bugging on a friend's family trawler.
- During a hurricane, as the canal rose and flowed through the woods, the waves crested and broke in your back yard.
- You and your friends helped a neighbor (Mr. Mac) unload watermelons from a big delivery truck and were paid with a dollar and a watermelon.
- Instead of a trampoline you had huge airplane tire inner tubes in your yard to jump on and roll around in.
- Your Mom made blackberry cobbler from the berries you spent half the day picking and eating.
- Your eggs were delivered by the egg lady and milk came in glass jars.
- The tides were so high you got croakers in your collards (so Mr. Macado says).
- The whole neighborhood knows your dog because he wears a bandana and hangs out at the neighborhood store while you're at school.

If you know any that we haven't published, send them to:

E-mail: Carolina.country@ncemcs.com

Mail: P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611

Web: www.carolinacountry.com



See Rounds 1-12
on our Web site.



One 10 minute phone call is all it takes to make just one lower monthly payment and get a fresh start financially!

Look how low your payments could be at 3.99%:

Loan Amount
\$75,000
Monthly pymt.
\$357.63*

Loan Amount
\$100,000
Monthly pymt.
\$476.84*

Loan Amount
\$150,000
Monthly pymt.
\$715.26*

*4.502 Annual Percentage Rate, 1 yr. ARM, 2/6 caps LIBOR, 2.25 margin, 30 yr. term. Subject to credit, collateral and income requirements. Rates as of 04/20/05. Rates subject to change.

- Get up to 125% of home's value with **no appraisal!**
- Buy your dream home with **no money down!**

Programs for: • Self employed/unable to verify income
• Refinance to a lower rate • Less than perfect credit
• Doublewide homes with land (no singlewides)

• **Fast approvals** • **Local closings** • **Cash to you in just days!**

Homeowners: call toll-free anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

The Mortgage Outlet, Inc. - 1-888-268-6690

10 State Residential Mortgage Lender • In business since 1993

• Visit us at www.moneyoutlet.com •

A Summer Spectacle

AT MANN'S HARBOR BRIDGE

Text and photos by Alisa Esposito

Purple martins have been called "America's Most Wanted Bird." Their complete dependency on people to provide nesting structures makes them unique among songbirds. Martin "landlords" invest considerable time, money and care to raise young martins. Their rewards are having the birds nearby and the knowing that they are helping a species that could become extinct without their efforts.

Landlords anticipate the purple martins' return each spring and feel a bittersweet absence when they depart in late summer. But folks in eastern North Carolina need not feel the sting of their absence as sharply. We have the opportunity to enjoy one of the most fascinating displays in all creation: the annual roost of some 100,000 purple martins at the Manns Harbor (William B. Umstead) Bridge between Roanoke Island and Manns Harbor. Martins have roosted here during the summer months for more than 25 years. If you cross the bridge at sunrise or sunset during June, July or August, you may see a thick swarm of these amazing aerial acrobats descending on your vehicle.

Martins prefer to roost in large groups, and they prefer being over water and far from nest sites because there is safety in numbers and fewer predators to contend with. The Manns Harbor Bridge supports martins from 150 miles around. Late in the season, birds fly back and forth from roost to nest site each day, feeding on

airborne insects as they fly. Adult males start roosting in mid-June, and numbers steadily rise as fledglings leave their nests. By mid-July the roost peaks at about 100,000 birds and is sustained there until the end of August when enormous groups of birds begin their migration to Brazil.

During the roosting spectacle, the bridge's west end becomes covered with dead purple martins that have been hit by traffic. We monitored the roost during 2004 and in seven weeks we counted 2,800 dead martins. We collected 1,500 bodies but can only guess how many birds were lost to our count for various reasons. Ninety-nine percent of collected bodies were inexperienced fledglings learning to fly.

Concerned residents of Dare and Tyrrell counties worked last year with state, national and local agencies to bring attention to the martins. We drafted a "Purple Martin Protection Proposal" which was delivered to state Sen. Marc Basnight, who turned it over to the North Carolina Department of Transportation. We requested that Dare County Commissioners and NCDOT explore the issue of fencing on the bridge. So far, NCDOT plans to place flashing message boards to alert drivers to the hazards of driving through the birds.

Fencing at similar roosts in Louisiana and Texas have cut martin mortality rates to near zero.

Most martin roosts are inaccessible to humans. The Manns Harbor Bridge offers a rare opportunity to observe and enjoy one of America's most beloved birds. The nightly display of 100,000 birds in flight across a beautiful Outer Banks sunset is an event to appreciate and celebrate.

A multitude of
100,000 purple
martins annually
roost here before
migrating south



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- For more information and to help protect the Manns Harbor roost, visit www.PurpleMartinRoost.com
- Donate to the "Manns Harbor Roost Fund": PMCA, c/o Manns Harbor Roost Fund, Edinboro University of Penna, Edinboro, PA 16444
- Visit the roost this summer to experience the spectacle. You can see it best from the west side of the bridge in Manns Harbor. Do not drive over the bridge during martin flight periods (birds are killed for 1.5 hours after sunrise, and 3 hours after sunset). Use the new Virginia Dare Bridge as your primary travel route.
- Attend the Purple Martin Roost Festival on Aug. 6 at Roanoke Island Festival Park.
- Learn more about purple martins at www.purplemartin.org



On Croatan Sound, throngs of purple martins swarm to the Manns Harbor Bridge roost in mid-summer.

Alisa Esposito is a field biologist working with the red-cockaded woodpecker restoration project in eastern North Carolina. She is the 2003 recipient of the Purple Martin Conservation Association Award for her work with the Manns Harbor roost.

Mobile Home Owners Protect Your Home Now!

Insulated Roofing Systems

- Stops Roof Leaks
- Stops Roof Condensation
- Stops Roof Rumble
- Maintenance Free



Vinyl Replacement Tilt-in Windows

- Easy to Clean
- Better Insulation

Premium Vinyl Siding

- Beautiful New Home Look
- Many Styles & Colors Available
- Adds Value to your Home
- FREE Window Shutters with Purchase

Lowens Heating & Cooling Bills Guaranteed Lifetime Warranty

Financing available with approved credit
No Money Down — Affordable Payments
For a FREE No Obligation Estimate Call:

Mobile Home Exterior 1-800-849-5715

PREMIER BUILDING SYSTEMS

1-800-882-5150

(770) 239-2085



The more you look,
The better we look!

30x40x10.....\$6,229
50x60x12.....\$11,305
60x100x12.....\$19,995
100x150x16.....\$ 59,475

Does not include freight tax, any construction cost. *Codes & market may affect prices.

ALL SIZES AVAILABLE

26 GA., 20 YEAR WARRANTY ROOF & WALLS

MINI WAREHOUSES AVAILABLE
20 X 100 X 8'-6" ... \$8,299

Custom Quality Steel Buildings
at Discount Prices!

www.premierbuildings.com

marketPLACE HOME AND BUILDING

Best Prices - Best Buildings.



The extra space you need — at a price you can afford!



Save thousands on:
25'x30', 30'x60',
35'x54' & More!

1-800-405-7501

www.us-buildings.com

Garages
Workshops
Storage
Agriculture
Hobbies

BUY FACTORY DIRECT

SAVE UP TO

60%
ON
SELECTED
MODELS



ALL STEEL SUPER TOUGH

PROTECT
YOUR
VALUABLE
EQUIPMENT

MODELS
INCLUDED
25 x 30
30 x 50
40 x 50
50 x 80
50 x 100
50 x 15
other models
available



800/547-8335

STEEL DEPOT METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS

"The Name To Look For In Quality
Steel Buildings"

1-800-541-0302

From 30 X 30 up to 200 X Unlimited
Lowest Prices X Highest Quality

Also Lowest Price on Mini-Storage

KENTUCKY STEEL TRUSS BUILDINGS	
20/70	
24' x 30' x 8'	\$ 3,503
30' x 36' x 8'	\$ 4,903
40' x 48' x 10'	\$ 7,203
50' x 60' x 12'	\$ 11,203
60' x 70' x 12'	\$ 15,703
75' x 80' x 14'	\$ 21,603

FREE CATALOGUE
1-859-745-0606
www.kstbuild.com

AMERICA'S
BEST
BUY



since 1986

FARM • CHURCH • SPORTS • HORSE • CAR • PLANE
ALL STEEL • ALL COLOR • 25/50 WARRANTY

35' x 45' x 10'
\$5,995

(UBC 97 Code, 12# Lvs, 20# Snow 80mph Wind)

Don't be misled by buildings priced to the wrong code. Call Heritage for the RIGHT PRICE.

HERITAGE BUILDING SYSTEMS®

800.643.5555

www.heritagebuildings.com

MAKE YARD WORK EASY!



Cyclone
Rake

Get the Power of a 5 Man Crew!

Turn back-breaking outdoor clean-up into a "ride in the park" with the incredible Cyclone Rake. Powerful engine-driven vacuum mulcher works like a 5 man crew! You can easily pick-up and pulverize tons of leaves, mow acres of heavy grass, clear pine straw, sticks and lawn debris—as you drive. Hitches to almost any riding mower and gives you 10 times the lifting power and many times the capacity—lets you handle huge areas without stopping! And when you're done it folds up flat for compact storage—no need for a barn or spare garage.

Call toll-free today for your
FREE video and information kit.

1-800-255-9700

Woodland Power Products, Inc., Dept. CC605, 72 Acton St. West Haven, CT 06516 www.CycloneRake.com

marketPLACE

HOME AND BUILDING

QUALITY STEEL BUILDINGS AT DISCOUNT PRICES!



20 Year Roof & Wall Warranty

Custom Built to Your Specifications

FREE QUOTE! Call Toll FREE 1-866-728-9973

WWW.STEELCOBUILDINGS.NET

BUILT TO LAST AND PRICED TO SELL...



Compare our everyday price for our 25'x40' building:

\$4,990 FRONT END OPTIONAL

- EASY DO IT YOURSELF
- 30-YEAR WARRANTY
- 100% USEABLE SPACE

• Many sizes, shapes & applications! • Tough, rugged building - lasts! • Heavy gauge Galvalume steel • Easy to finish trussless interior • Totally maintenance free!

STEEL BUILDINGS GO FACTORY DIRECT

PIONEER 800-668-5422

www.pioneersteel.com 23 YEARS OF REPUTATION BUILT OF STEEL

STEELMASTER BUILDING KITS

"SteelMaster® Building Kits for Home, Farm and Industry"

30 YEAR WARRANTY



for FREE catalog

800-341-7007

www.SteelMasterUSA.com

Farm • Industrial • Commercial

20 Year Warranty on Roof & Walls;
Prices F.O.B. Mfg. Plants;
Seal Stamped Blue Prints;
Easy Bolt Together Design.



30' x 50' x 10'\$7,490
40' x 60' x 12'\$10,460
60' x 100' x 16'\$23,950
80' x 100' x 16'\$31,402
100' x 150' x 16'\$53,952

PRICES INCLUDE COLOR SIDES & GALVALUME ROOF

Arena Special (roof & frame)
120' x 100' x 16'\$41,750

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Fax: 940-484-6746 email: rhinobld@GTE.NET
Website: http://www.RHINOBLDG.COM
Toll Free 1-888-320-7466

ADVANTAGE STEEL BUILDINGS, INC.

For The Best Building Package At the Absolute Lowest Prices
Call Today (877) 657-8335
Or go Online At
www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

30x50x10	\$ 6,290.00
40x60x12	\$ 8,975.00
50x75x14	\$13,547.00
80x120x16	\$32,133.00



We Also Have Mini-Storage Packages
All Sizes Including Climate Control

You're Successful...



...BUT, wouldn't you like a partner who is an engineer, a marketing whiz, a flawless secretary, a master craftsman, and a certified accountant?

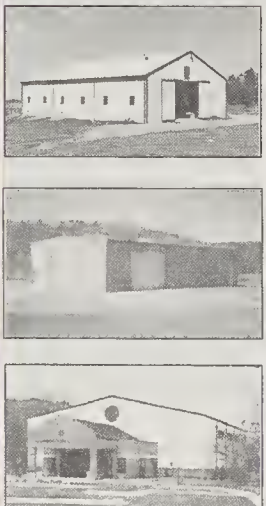
Have It All With A Name You Can Trust

Wick Buildings
800-356-9682

Dealership Opportunities Now Available
www.WickBuildings.com

Arco

Quality Steel Buildings
1-800-241-8339



ARCO Building Systems has been named by Metal Construction News as the 3rd largest builder of metal buildings in the United States. We offer, *Direct to the Consumer*, the highest Quality all steel buildings available, as well as the Engineers to answer all your questions. With ARCO, you receive the most attractive, maintenance free building on the market with the service to match.

People who know buy ARCO

40X60X12.....	\$ 9,920
50X75X10.....	\$ 13,523
60X100X12.....	\$ 19,981
60X75X12.....	\$ 15,672
50X100X12.....	\$ 16,920
100X100X12 w/column.....	\$ 34,872
100X150X14 w/column.....	\$ 49,683

FOB Plant-All sizes available-Local codes may affect prices
20'X100'X8'6".....Mini Warehouse.....\$ 9,815

25 Years

Arco Building Systems, Inc.
Visit us at our web-site...www.arcosteel.com

MOBILE HOME ROOF PROBLEMS?

PERMA-ROOF®
from Southern Builders®

The Mobile Home Roofover Specialist Can Help!



20 YEARS!

LIFETIME WARRANTY
ONE FOOT OVER-HANG
NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE
COMMERCIAL GRADE STEEL
2"or 3" FOIL BACKED INSULATION

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
www.roofover.com
1-800-633-8969

Phone*etics

1	ABC 2	DEF 3
GHI 4	JKL 5	MNO 6
PQRS 7	TUV 8	WXYZ 9
*	0	#

I would bet that few residents of this North Carolina county realize that it is bordered by nine adjacent counties!

The nine, clockwise, are: YADKIN, DAVIE, ROWAN, CABARRUS, MECKLENBURG, LINCOLN, CATAWABA, ALEXANDER, and WILKES.

The name of the county? If you were to punch in the number below on your telephone key pad you would spell it out.

4 7 3 3 3 5 5

— — — — —

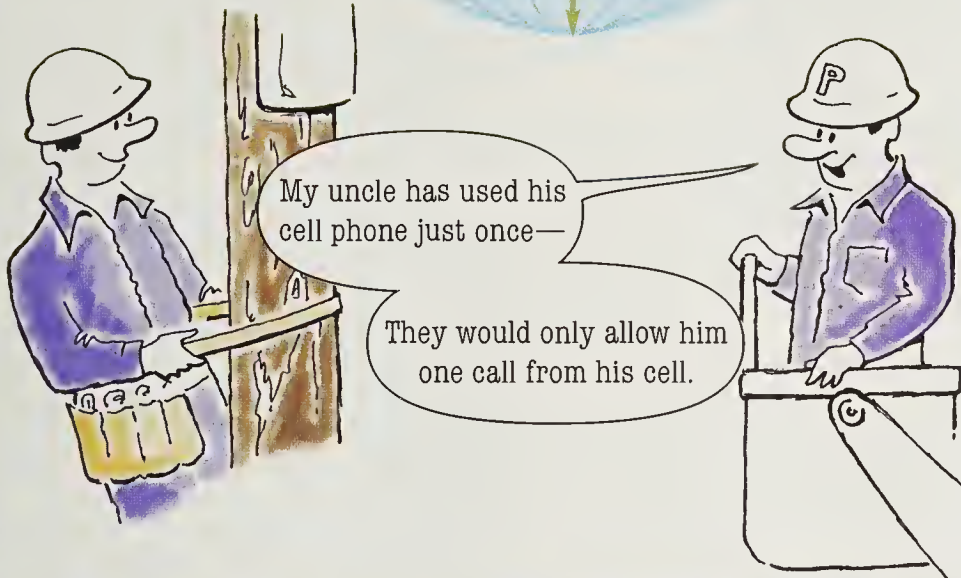
TERSE VERSE

Incidental Intelligence

Cargo, cast into the sea,
to lighten the loads of boats,
is jetsam that becomes debris,
but flotsam when it floats.

-cgj

PERCY P. CASSIDY POLES APART



UNSCRAMBLIT

What the gardener named his "how to" book:

" _ _ _ _ _ a _ _ _ _ _ s _ _ _ _ _ l _ _ _ _ _ !"

Use the capital letters in the code clue below to fill in the blanks above.
"A D E I N P R T W" means
s c r a m b l e d

WORD —WARD—WARY—PRAY— PLAY

To get from MAY to JUNE you must change one letter or add one letter in each step to spell a new word. Letters may be rearranged in any step. Sorry, no proper names allowed. Your answer may be different from mine.

1. M A Y

2. _ _ _

3. _ _ _

4. _ _ _ _

5. J U N E

marketPLACE

PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL

CHOIR ROBES
EXPERT TAILORING **\$31⁹⁵** & UP

Finest fabrics including permanent press and wash & wear. Superior quality. Free color catalog and fabric swatches on request.

GUARANTEED SATISFACTION

Call Toll Free:
1-800-826-8612

REGENCY
CAP & GOWN CO.
www.rcgown.com
P.O. Box 8988-N Jacksonville, FL 32211

LOWEST COST
Term Life Insurance
Issue ages through 90

AGE	\$100,000	\$250,000
45	9.63	17.33
55	14.49	29.48
65	29.70	67.50

Rates figured on monthly cost for female non-tobacco users

RAMLET & ASSOC, INC.
(800) 933-6354

AGL Life Assurance Company Form No. TC-191


Bolt-up construction. Call for free price quote.

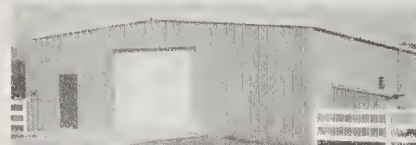
Size	Price
40x50x12	\$8,338
60x75x14	\$15,528
100x125x16-M1	\$39,033

Ask us about our mini storage buildings....

PROGRESSIVE
STEEL BUILDINGS INC.
"Strong Today, Safe Tomorrow"
www.progressivesteelbuildings.com

Office
(800) 664-0567
Fax
(501) 834-8407

Apex
Building Systems, Inc.



Do It Yourself and Save!
Easy Bolt Up I-Beam Construction
Commercial-Industrial-Agricultural Buildings
Over 10,000 Sizes Available!

Call Today for a Free Price Quote & Brochure
50x100x12 \$17,900.00 40x60x12 \$9,300.00
Ask About Our Huge Power Tool Give Away!
Mini Storage Quotes Available

Toll Free: **877-275-APEX (2739)**
Toll Free Fax: **877-275-2701**
www.apexbuilding.com

ROSE PARADE
GOLDEN WEST TOUR

DEPARTS 12-30-05

Join other FARMERS AND FRIENDS and get away from the colder weather during the first week in January; avoid the post holiday blahs, and enjoy the best New Year's Eve and New Years Day you've had in years on this ten-day tour! Included are five nights in Los Angeles, California (at the LAX Renaissance Hotel); two nights in Las Vegas, Nevada on the strip (The Excalibur Hotel); two nights in Laughlin, Nevada on the Colorado River (Harrahs); **RESERVED GRANDSTAND SEATS AT THE ROSE PARADE**; YMT's city tour of L.A., Hollywood and Beverly Hills; up close float viewing the day before the parade; Calico Ghost Town; baggage handling; hotel transfers and optional sightseeing tours including the **Pageant of Christmas at the Crystal Cathedral** in Garden Grove, California. You've seen the parade on TV for years; now see the excitement and hoopla of the most famous parade in America live and up close. The sights and sounds all make being there truly spectacular. Your price, including all taxes: only \$848 per person, double occupancy. Airfare is extra and starts at \$500 per person. *Space is limited. \$100 U.S. deposits are now due.*

For information, reservations, & brochure call:
'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-888-8204
Providing carefree vacations since 1967!

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY FABRAL

Horse Barns • Garages
Storage Buildings • Hay Barns

\$6795*
Galvanized/Enclosed
30x50x10


N.C. Lic.#52845

30-Year Ceramic-based paint colors and other sizes available.

100% Financing WAC

East of I-95 add \$400

*Price Includes: Materials, delivery, construction, a 10' or 12' sliding door, factory pre-engineered trusses, one walk-in door with key, 6 evelights and One-Year Warranty on labor and materials.

- Fully insured for your protection
- Visa, Mastercard, AmEx accepted
- Call for a Free Brochure & Estimate
- Codes may affect prices

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5; Sat 8-noon CST

1-888-427-BARN (2276)
Fax (615) 325-2701
www.nationalbarn.com
nbcad@mindspring.com

NEW RATES FROM 1.25%

High Payments? Call for help!

REFINANCE • DEBT CONSOLIDATION • HOME IMPROVEMENTS • NOT SO PERFECT CREDIT
NO INCOME VERIFICATION • PREVIOUS BANKRUPTCY OK • DOUBLEWIDES WITH LAND

Homeowners, Consolidate Debt Now! NO UPFRONT FEES!

SAMPLE LOAN	PAYMENT	TERM	RATE*	APR
\$75,000	\$419.98	30 YR. Fixed	*5.37	5.60%
\$100,000	\$559.97	30 YR. Fixed	*5.35	5.55%
\$150,000	\$832.49	30 YR. Fixed	*5.29	5.47%
\$200,000	\$666.50	Power Arm	**1.25	5.07%

* Conforming rates for 70 LTV, rate/term refinance transactions. Rates are FIXED! We also have great Arm & Jumbo loans. **Power Arm adjusts monthly with annual payment adjustments. Call for terms on other products. Cash Out, Fixed, ARMs, Manufactured Homes, Slow Credit, Interest Only, No Income Verification, Prev. Bankruptcy, etc.


Your Local Lender



Real People...Real Results!

 **EquiSource**
HOME MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Applications Taken 24 Hours a Day 7 Days A Week!

1-800-794-6178
Apply online—www.equisourcehomemtg.com

Getting To Know...

Name: Clay Aiken

Born: November 30, 1978, in Raleigh.

Known for: He was the runner-up to Fox TV's "American Idol: The Search for a Superstar" competition in 2003. Pop vocalist Clay wowed viewers with his Southern charm, wholesome demeanor and bright voice. Clay reportedly started singing when he was 18 months old. By the time he was a teenager, the "little guy with the big voice" was a member of the Raleigh Boys Choir. Later, he honed his skills in musicals, stage plays and playhouse shows.

Accomplishments: Aiken's debut album, "Measure of a Man," hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200, and his single "This Is the Night/Bridge Over Troubled Water" won the 2003 Billboard Music Award for Best-Selling Single. Clay, who studied special education in college, also started the Bubel Aiken Foundation, which aims to provide opportunities for individuals with autism and other physical and mental disabilities. He has spoken out strongly against school bullies and lauded teachers for the encouragement they gave him.

Quote: "When I learned to believe in myself, to have faith and to remain stubborn in my convictions, my life changed."



Eric Ogden

Do You Know...

That in 1903 Caleb Bradham, a New Bern drugstore owner, made soft drink history when he was granted a patent for Pepsi Cola. Before naming it Pepsi Cola, he called it Brad's Drink.



classroom
chuckle

What kind of food do math teachers eat?

Square meals!

N.C. Publications

From popular paperback books about North Carolina legends, lighthouses and highway historical markers to Civil War and genealogy resources, the Office of Archives and History offers more than 160 titles that reflect the rich variety of Tar Heel history. To get a free booklet describing all

titles, call the Historical Publications Section at (919) 733-7442 or visit www.ncpublications.com

North Carolina Archives & History



2005 Publications



Learning about taste at the Adventures in Health "tongue" exhibit.

Field Trip Fun Adventures in Health

Health Adventure, an interactive, 12,000-foot- plus facility in Asheville, offers engaging exhibits about the human body and life sciences. Galleries include Miracle of Life, where a transparent mannequin explains how her body functions. Sciencespace has a black-light room, energy-generating bicycle and levitating mirror, and NutriSpace has educational food displays. Touch of the Tropics lets students touch marine life such as sea urchins, with a daily fish feeding and live snake shows. The Web site includes a downloadable teacher's program, lesson plans and suggested class activities. Call (828) 254-6373 or visit www.healthadventure.org

SURF IT!

For more about Clay Aiken,
www.clayaiken.com

For more about Caleb Bradham
and other inventors, visit
<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blpepsi.htm>

We'd Like to
Hear From You



If you have suggestions or comments about our bimonthly youth page, Tar Heel Lessons, e-mail carolina.country@ncemcs.com, write Carolina Country Tar Heel Lessons, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611, or call (800) 662-8835, ext. 3036.

June EVENTS

MOUNTAINS

Live Coffee House Music
Saturdays, Marion
(828) 652-6216
www.uniquegalleriesNC.com

Old Fort Mountain Music
Fridays, Old Fort
(888) 233-6111

Beau Jest
June 3-23, Flat Rock
(828) 693-0731
www.flatrockplayhouse.org

Music on Main
Fridays, Hendersonville
(828) 693-9708
www.historichendersonville.org

Signs of Spring
June 4, Roseman
(828) 877-3106
www.headwatersoutfitters.com

Heritage Festival
June 4, Andrews
(828) 321-3195

Battle in Blue Ridge Mountains
June 4-5, Marion
(828) 659-6377

Live at Crooked Door
Saturdays, Marion
(828) 652-6216
www.uniquegalleriesNC.com

1776 Musical
June 8, Flat Rock
(828) 693-0731
www.flatrockplayhouse.org

Discovery at Dusk
Fridays, Rosman
(828) 877-3106
www.headwatersoutfitters.com/special_events.htm

Blue Ridge Concert Series
Alternate Roots
and The VW Boys
June 10, West Jefferson
(336) 846-ARTS

Gallery Crawl
June 10, West Jefferson
(336) 846-ARTS

Toe River Studio Tour
June 11-12, Spruce Pine
(828) 682-7215
www.toeriverarts.org

"Carolina Mountain Air"
June 11, Little Switzerland
(828) 765-4756

Rummage Sale
June 17-18, Boone
(828) 264-7339
www.wataugahumane.society.org

Antique Tractor & Engine Pull
June 17-18, Marion
(828) 738-4934

Blair Farm Art & Antiques
June 18, Boone
(828) 758-5520
www.wishfulthinkingstudio.com

Sidewalk Antique Show
June 18, Hendersonville
(828) 697-2022
www.dhinc.org

Coffee House Talent Night
June 18, Jefferson
(336) 846-ARTS

"The Sound of Music"
June 23-27, West Jefferson
(336) 846-ARTS

Singing on the Mountain
June 26, Linville
(800) 468-7325
www.grandfather.com

Singing in Hominy Valley
June 29-July 4, Candler
(828) 667-8502

PIEDMONT

Planetarium shows
Weekends, Gastonia
(704) 866-6900
www.schielemuseum.org

Farmers' Market
Saturday mornings,
Wake Forest
(252) 438-4002
www.wakeforestmarket.org

Herb Fair
June 4, High Point
(336) 885-1859
www.highpointmuseum.org

**History a la Carte:
A Soldier's Collection**
June 8, Raleigh
(919) 807-7900
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Occaneechi-Saponi Festival
June 10-11, Hillsborough
(919) 304-3723
www.occaneechi-saponi.org

Craft Festival
June 11, Salemburg
(919) 562-9932
www.evaliceentertainment.com

Embroidered Handkerchiefs
June 11-12, High Point
(336) 885-1859
www.highpointmuseum.org

**Triad Antique
& Collectible Show**
June 11-12, Greensboro
(919) 553-4285
www.insidepitch.com

The Malpass Family
June 17, Rocky Mount
(252) 972-3331

Heritage Day Festival
June 17, Boonville
(336) 367-7941



The official North Carolina Blueberry festival has become the largest single event in Pender County, where blueberries are the most valuable crop produced. Last year's festival drew a crowd of 10,000 to Burgaw to enjoy blueberries, music, arts, crafts and food. Co-sponsored by Four County EMC, this year's event is June 25. Parade at 9 a.m., opening ceremonies at 10. Entertainment includes Sammy O'Banion and the Mardi Gras Band, The Coastline Band, and the Fantastic Shakers. The Star-News of Wilmington sponsors the recipe contest (entries due 11 a.m., June 24). For more information: (910) 259-1235.

MOUNTAINS

PIEDMONT

COAST

23rd Annual Hog Days

June 17–18, Hillsborough
(919) 732-8156
www.hogdays.com

Mid-Atlantic Rodeo

June 17–18, Pilot
(704) 882-6994
www.arealcowboystore.com

"Swing-On" concert series

June 19, Asheboro
(336) 626-1240
www.VisitRandolph.org

Art Crawl

June 19, Hickory
(828) 322-1121
www.downtownhickory.com

Thyme for Herbs

June 22, High Point
(336) 885-1859
www.highpointmuseum.org

Summer Festival

June 10–11, Washington
(252) 946-9168
www.wbccchamber.com

Music in the Streets

June 17, Washington
(252) 946-2504

Blessing of the Fleet

June 18, Hobucken
(252) 745-3262

Whootentown Whootenanny

June 24–26, Washington
(252) 945-1554
www.lakejehu.com

Blueberry Festival

June 25, Burgaw
(888) 576-4756
www.visitpender.com

The hit musical
"King Mackerel &
The Blues Are
Running: Songs &
Stories of the
Carolina Coast"
returns to Carteret
County in June and
July. "King Mackerel"
will run Wednesday
through Sunday
(June 22–25, June
29–30) and
Wednesday through
Saturday (July 6–9)



at Joslyn Hall, Carteret Community College, at 8 p.m. It is a benefit for the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and the North Carolina Coastal Federation. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 to CSWM and NCCF members). Call (252) 728-1500.

COAST

Art Inspired by Music

Through June 30,
Morehead City
(252) 726-7550
www.cagallery.net

Relay for Life

June 3–4, Columbia
(252) 796-3421

Ocracoke Festival

June 3–5, Ocracoke
(252) 928-3411

Heritage Day

June 4, Creswell
(252) 797-4336

Blueberry Festival

June 4, Ammon
(910) 588-4592

Spinner's Reunion

June 4, Bladenboro
(910) 863-3506

Storytelling Festival

Wednesdays, Morehead City
(252) 728-2850
http://carteret.cpcplib.org

Mid-Atlantic Rodeo

June 10–11, Powell's Point
(704) 882-6994

PROFESSIONAL POWER DR® CHIPPER

**MAKES BRUSH PILES
DISAPPEAR FAST!**

- **DEVOURS BRANCHES**
up to 4-1/2" thick!
- **TRANSFORMS HARD-TO-DISPOSE-OF MATERIALS** —
fallen limbs, storm damage, tops from
felled trees into useful wood chip mulch!
- **3 TO 4 TIMES FASTER** than
ordinary homeowner
chipper/shredders
which were
designed for
grinding up garden wastes —
not heavy chipping.
- **UP TO 18 HP** twin-
cylinder engines with electric starting!
- **SOLD FACTORY-DIRECT**
at great savings!



**FREE
SHIPPING**
Now in Effect!

Road-Towable, Top-Discharge, even
Tractor-Mounted models available!

MADE
IN USA

For **FREE** Details Call **TOLL-FREE**

1-888-550-0065

YES! Please rush complete **FREE** DETAILS of the Professional-Power
DR® CHIPPER, including prices and specifications of features and
options, and Seasonal Savings now in effect.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
E-mail _____
DR® POWER EQUIPMENT, Dept. 50974X
127 Meigs Road, Vergennes, VT 05491
www.drchipper.com

©2005 CHP, INC.

New for Tractor Owners!

**New 3-Point Hitch, Tractor-
Mounted model also available!**

Now Showing

A LISTING OF EXHIBITS

MOUNTAINS

1960-1980 Perspectives

Ongoing, Asheville
Asheville Art Museum
(828) 253-3227
www.ashevilleart.org

Blue Ridge Art Clan Exhibit

June 8-July 16, West Jefferson
(336) 846-ARTS

Bearfootin'

Through Oct. 22,
Hendersonville
(828) 697-2022
www.dhinc.org

Grand Hotels of Western N.C.

Through Oct. 31, Asheville
Smith-McDowell House
(828) 253-9231
www.wnchistory.org

PIEDMONT

Magic Wings Butterfly House

Ongoing, Durham
Museum of Life and Science
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmls.org

Fantastic Fossils

Daily, Gastonia
(704) 866-6900
www.schielemuseum.org

Catawba Indian Village

Ongoing, Gastonia
Schiele Museum
of Natural History
(704) 866-6908
www.schielemuseum.org

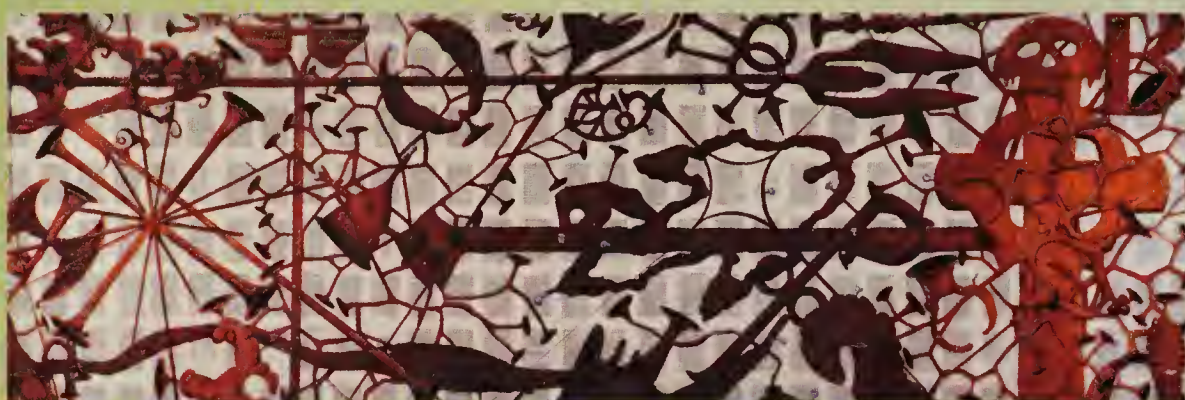
Listing Information

Deadlines: for August: June 25 | for September: July 25

Submit Listings on Our Web Site: Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click on "See NC" to add your event to both the magazine and our Web site.

Or Submit Listings by Mail, Fax or E-Mail: Include title, date(s), location, phone number and/or Web site url. Photos (300 dpi or hard copies) are welcome.

Send to: Carolina Compass, P.O. Box 27306,
Raleigh, NC 27611 | Fax: 919-878-3970
e-mail: carolina.country@ncmcs.com



The "Within Our Walls" exhibit in Charlotte showcases contemporary art through Nov. 1. Call (704) 373-1464 or visit www.lassitertgallery.com/art/art_04.htm

"Bob Timberlake: Coming Home"

June 3-30, Roxboro
(336) 599-1181
www.piedmont.cc.nc.us

Invention At Play

June 4-Sept. 5, Durham
(919) 220-5429, ext. 323
www.ncmis.org

John & Jamie Herrmann

June 12, Raleigh
(919) 807-7900
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

A Closer Look: Carolina Culture

June 25, Raleigh
(919) 807-7900
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Treasures Unearthed:

NC's Gems & Minerals
Through June 12, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of
Natural Sciences
(919) 733-7450
www.naturalsciences.org

World of Kapla

Through June 20, Durham
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmis.org

Porcelain American Style

Through June 26, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art
(704) 337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org

A Call to Arms

Through July 10, Raleigh
(919) 807-7943
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Vanguard Collecting

Through Aug. 21,
Winton-Salem
Early Reynolda
House collection
(888) 663-1149
www.reynoldahouse.org

"Back to the 60's"

Through Aug. 27, Oxford
Granville County Museum
(919) 693-9706

Murano: Glass from Spanu Collection

Through August 21,
Charlotte
Mint Museum
of Craft & Design
(704) 337-2009
www.mintmuseum.org

Forces of Nature

Through Sept. 6, Charlotte
(704) 372-6261
www.discoveryplace.org

"Within Our Walls"

Through Nov. 1, Charlotte
(704) 373-1464
www.lassitertgallery.com/art/art_04.htm

"War on Terror"

Through Dec. 2005,
Fayetteville
Airborne & Special
Operations Museum
(866) 547-0649
www.asomf.org

COAST

Artifacts and Art

Ongoing, Hatteras Island
Frisco Native
American Museum
(252) 995-4440
www.nativeamericanmuseum.org

"Faces of North Carolina"

Through June, Morehead City
(252) 726-7550
www.cagallery.net

Got Land?

- WE build on YOUR lot, or on property you'd like to purchase.
- WE pay construction loan interest!
- WE pay points & closing cost!
- NO DOWN PAYMENT!
- Land & Home financing available.
- 2 Locations:
Charlotte & Columbia

FREE BROCHURE

Just mail this coupon or call today

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Where do you intend to build: _____

Mail to: **Madison Homebuilders**
1721 East Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28203



Madison Homebuilders
www.madisonhomebuilders.net


**FOR FLOOR PLANS & A FREE BROCHURE
CALL TOLL FREE:**

1-800-957-9304

SOY BIODIESEL EXPECT MORE FROM YOUR FUEL

**North Carolina and Soy Biodiesel.
Fueling Farmer Success.**

Soy biodiesel is derived from 100% virgin soybean oil in a 2% minimum blend that meets ASTM D-6751.

 **NORTH CAROLINA
SOYBEAN**
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
800/839-5775



**EXceptional lubricity
EXtended equipment life
EXpanded use for your crops**

Some Like It Hot

It's nice to know that when lettuce starts to wilt and vine borers polish off the squash, some edibles will always be there for us. Hot peppers are the stars of the summer garden and easy to grow. They like it hot, and they deliver hot flavor. Chilies need full sun, as you might imagine, good drainage and fertile soil. Plant them away from tomatoes, eggplants and potatoes, which are in the same family and susceptible to the same diseases. Pests rarely bother the fruit.

No matter how much you love hot peppers, you can only eat so many fresh. Thankfully, they preserve well. Dry them whole, grind them for spices, make jelly, can them and, of course, pickle them. You can also smoke them. Chipotle peppers, a trendy culinary ingredient, are actually smoked jalapenos.

Besides tasting great, chilies are also attractive dried and hung in strings or bunches. Long, skinny peppers look hot in fresh flower arrangements. Use a stem from a Tabasco plant when the clusters of fruit are in varying states of ripeness—red, orange and yellow.



Chile Pepper Institute, New Mexico State University

To measure the heat of chili peppers, you can bite into one (a risky method) or you can rely on the Scoville scale, a laboratory method for rating pungency. Expressed in units of heat, peppers are graded on a relative scale—from 0 units for bell pepper to 210,000 units for the infamous orange habanero. Other rankings include: 'Long Slim' cayenne, 23,000; jalapeno, 25,000; Thai hot, 60,000; and Tabasco, 120,000.

Painless Roses

Recently a customer in line at a garden center asked me if roses are easy to grow. She may as well have asked if children are easy to rear. The short answer is: It depends on the rose, and it depends on the gardener. And it depends on your definition of easy.

The good news is there are hundreds upon hundreds of roses that are easy to grow, by anyone's standards. It's a matter of

or heirlooms, existed before hybrids. They are praised for being cold-hardy, disease-resistant and much more fragrant than modern roses. Rose "rustlers" scan fields and old graveyards for these easygoing, prolific bloomers, which flourish with little or no care. (Not really thieves, most of these rose-lovers take only cuttings for propagation).

Many newer hybrid tea roses are bred for disease-resistance. But don't confuse disease-resistance with disease-free. No plant is immune from attack. And roses may perform well in some regions but not others.

Black spot, powdery mildew and mosaic virus are common diseases, and Japanese beetles, aphids and leafcutters are frequent pests. Use soaker hoses or water at ground level to keep leaves dry and discourage diseases. A site that receives morning sun will keep foliage dry; full sun is usually best. Allow 3 or 4 feet between plants for good air circulation. Situate them away from vegetable gardens and fruit trees, which invite insects. Roses like organic soils. Prepare beds carefully and amend with compost.

An outstanding, carefree rose is the "rugosa" species. It's referred to as a shrub rose, though all roses are shrubs. Rugosas are also called beach roses, and indeed are tough enough to withstand drought and even salt spray. They tolerate poor soils and are winter-hardy throughout North Carolina. Rugosas have a dense, rounded form and grow up to 6 feet high and wide, but they can withstand heavy pruning to keep them in bounds. In fall, they have lovely yellowish to bronze foliage and produce beautiful orange-red hips resembling miniature apples, which is no coincidence. Apple trees are in the rose family, and their fruits are actually hips. Like their apple cousins, rose hips are edible and nutritious.

Carla Burgess' roots as a gardener are in Sampson County. She can be reached at ncgardenshare@mindspring.com

June Sowing

It's not too late to plant melons, okra, butterbeans, corn and Southern peas (also known as field peas, crowder peas, cow-peas and black-eyed peas).

'Allstar' is a good cantaloupe for North Carolina. The 4- to 5-pound muskmelon matures in 85 days and tolerates mildew and fusarium wilt.

Recommended varieties of okra, all spineless, include 'Clemson Spineless', 'Emerald', 'Lee', 'Annie Oakley' and 'Prelude'. Prelude is a new variety that can grow ½ to ¾ inches longer than other varieties and still remain tender; yields are generally higher than Clemson.

what you expect from a rose—form, fragrance, color, repeat bloom, or all of these things. It pays to do your homework before selecting a rose, unless you don't mind wasting money and space.

Hybrid teas, which were first bred in the 1800s, are among the most popular and well-known classes of roses. Gardeners treasure them for their long stems and single flowers, which make them custom-made for vases. They have a reputation for being prima donnas, requiring excessive tending like spraying for pests and disease and heavy fertilizing. Old roses, also called antiques



For more June gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of www.carolinacountry.com

AMERICA'S OLDEST & LARGEST RARE BREED HATCHERY FREE COLOR CATALOG

Over 140 varieties of Baby Chicks, Bantams, Turkeys, Guinea, Peafowl, Game Birds, Waterfowl. Also Eggs, Incubators, Books, Equipment, and Medications.
 Call 1-800-456-3280 (24 Hours A Day)
 Murray McMurray Hatchery, C 130, Webster City, Iowa 50595-0458
www.mcmurrayhatchery.com

FREE POULTRY CATALOG



All Kinds of Poultry in color. Over 100 varieties of Baby Chicks, Exotic Rare Breeds, Fighting Games, Guinea, Bantams, Ducks. Shipped safely to your local Post Office.

MARTI POULTRY FARM

Box 27-35, Windsor, Missouri 65360

Phone: 660-647-3156 Fax: 660-647-3999 Website: www.martipoultry.com
 MasterCard, Visa & Discover

2 SEAT BIKE DRIVES LIKE A CAR

- Easy to Pedal
- Multi-Speed
- 1, 2 & 4 Seaters
- Optional Electric Motor

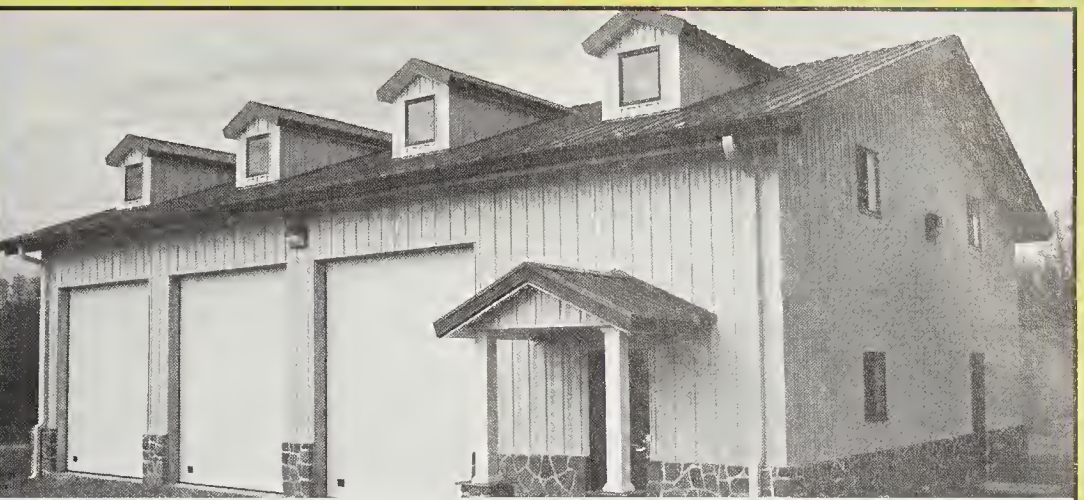


FREE BROCHURE

1-800-974-6233 Ext 8386 • www.4wc.com/8386

RHOADES CAR

Dept. 8386 • 125 Rhoades Lane
 Hendersonville, Tennessee 37075



Put another Star under your sky.

When it comes to an economical, energy-efficient way to enhance your current situation, look to Star. Manufacturing metal buildings since 1927 and with more than 250,000 buildings in service - Star is the premier choice for any size structure, for any need, anywhere. Starting at 1,200 square feet and including self-storage.



Star Building Systems
 A World Supplier of Metal Buildings

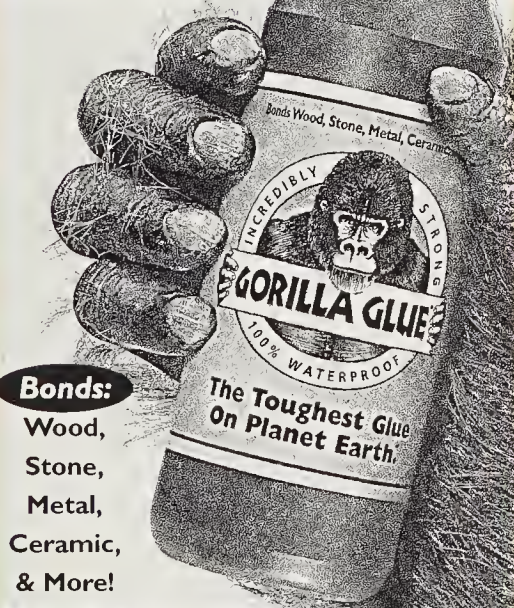
CALL 888-324-7827 FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

E-mail: Star.Marketing@StarBuildings.net
 Website: www.starbuildings.com/RuralC1



JOYNER'S CORNER ANSWERS:
 UNSCRAMBLIT
 "WEED IT AND REAP!"
 WORD PLAY
 MAY MAN MEN MENU JUNE
 Phone*etics
 IREDELL

The Toughest Glue On Planet Earth



Bonds:

Wood,
 Stone,
 Metal,
 Ceramic,
 & More!

REQUEST YOUR FREE
 INFORMATION KIT!

www.gorillaglu.com
 1-800-966-3458

Try our DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER for 6 MONTHS RISK-FREE!

We're so sure you'll love it, we're willing to extend to you this unusual invitation to use our self-propelled, walk-behind brush cutter on your property!

- **CLEAR & MAINTAIN** meadows, pastures, roadsides, fencelines, walking paths with ease!
- **CUT** tall grass, weeds, brush, brambles — even saplings up to 2-1/2" thick!
- **CHOP/MULCH** most everything you cut!

If the DR® is not the hardest-working, most durable, easiest-to-use machine for clearing fields and brush that you've ever used, we'll take it back and you won't be out a penny. We'll even pay for shipping it both ways!

**FREE
SHIPPING**
 Now in Effect!



CALL 1-888-550-0065

☐ **YES!** Please rush me your full-color Catalog and Demonstration Video on the DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER, including models, prices, your 6-MONTH RISK-FREE TRIAL, and how I can now receive FREE Depot Delivery!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 E-mail _____
DR® POWER EQUIPMENT, Dept. 50973X
 127 Meigs Road, Vergennes, VT 05491
www.drfieldbrush.com

Savvy placement of trees can reduce utility bills

The Department of Energy (DOE) has shown that properly placed mature trees can cut your utility bills by up to \$250 per year in a temperate climate.

Keep in mind, however, that there are many factors about a house that affect utility bills, with landscaping just one of them. For example, older people tend to feel colder, so they often don't set their air conditioner thermostat as low as a younger family with children. The type and efficiency of a central air conditioner also affects electricity usage.

There are many other benefits from landscaping your yard with the proper type and placement of trees. By shading your house, the walls, shingles and even curtains will last longer because the sun's damaging ultraviolet rays are blocked. The air immediately around your home will be less polluted and the oxygen level will be higher from the plant's photosynthesis. Trees also create an effective sound barrier from road noise, and the rustling of leaves in a breeze can be relaxing.

People often think of shading the house as the primary cooling effect, but trees also function as natural air conditioners through a process called evapotranspiration. As the tree roots draw water from the ground and the leaves on trees give off

this water in the form of water vapor, they cool the air similarly to how our own perspiration cools our skin.

The air temperature near the house on a well-landscaped yard can be 10 degrees cooler than on a treeless one. A smaller temperature difference between indoors and outdoors reduces the heat gain through the walls and thus reduces the load on the air conditioner. Also by keeping the air around the air conditioner outdoor unit cooler, its efficiency is increased.

The key to efficient landscaping with trees is selecting the proper species and placing them in the proper location for your specific climate. A well-landscaped efficient yard in the hot,



dry Southwest will look totally different from one in humid Georgia or in the Plains. The uncomfortable hot summer sun shines on a house from a different angle in southern regions of the country than in northern regions.

First, draw a layout of your yard and decide where you want to add some trees to landscape for your type of climate. Also determine the height, shape, type (evergreen or deciduous) of the mature trees and their growth rates. Next, talk with a local garden store expert to make sure you are planting trees that will thrive in your climate zone. Trees from northern climates may survive in climates several zones warmer. Generally though, the opposite is not true because the cold will often kill warm-climate trees.

In temperate and northern climates, you will also be concerned about winter heating bills. In these regions, you want the warm winter sun to shine on your house and in your windows for free passive solar heating. This is best accomplished by planting deciduous trees on south, east and west sides, leaving a small gap to the southwest for summer breezes. During winter with the leaves gone, much of the sun will shine through. Since the sun never shines from the north during winter, plant evergreens on the north side for a winter wind-break.

In a hot, humid climate, you air condition more often than in other climates. Natural breezes can be somewhat helpful during the evening, but because they tend to be overly humid, it is not as helpful as in temperate climates. Shading by placing tall trees to the south side is most important. Avoid an overabundance of plantings, particularly near the house, because they will raise the humidity level without the cooling effect.

Write for (instantly download
—www.dulley.com) Utility Bills

Update No. 438—showing
diagrams of landscaping
layouts for four climates,
selector guide of 100 trees
listing heights and shapes,
growth rates, hardiness zones,
and tree care/pruning tips.

Please include \$3.00
and a business-size SASE.

Send to:

James Dulley
Carolina Country
6906 Royalgreen Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45244

Business Opportunities

NEW! GROW EXPENSIVE PLANTS, 2000% Profit, Earn to \$50,000, Free Information Growbiz, Box 3738-NC6, Cookeville, TN 38502—www.growbiz-abco.com

WATKINS SINCE 1868. Top Ten Home Business. 350 products everyone uses. Free catalog packet. 800-352-5213.

PIANO TUNING PAYS: Learn with American School Home-Study Course. 800-497-9793.

SIX-FIGURE INCOME POTENTIAL Working from Home Christian Based Healthy Living Technologies Company. Needs Managers and Dealers. 888-374-5144.

\$10! TV'S FRDM \$10! Police Seized! Computers! For information call 800-749-8107 ext. M982.

INVEST IN YOURSELF. You can be successful in your own business and reap the rewards you deserve for your effort. For more information call 877-277-0846 or visit us online at www.TheESource.com/JMaidment.

GAIN FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE. Own your own business. Work from home. Car bonus. 800-344-6494.

INVENTORS: We help submit ideas to industry. Patent services. 888-439-IDEA.

AS SEE ON TV! CALORAD! Buy wholesale or home-based business opportunity. 888-775-5533.

MANGOSTEEN! Nature's antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial. Juice from Mangosteen fruit. FREE INFO 800-896-5833. www.MyMangosteen.com/drtim

JOIN A WINNING TEAM, awesome company, unique products. Contact bhw1210@yahoo.com

LIFE & HEALTH INSURANCE, Great rates! Most people accepted. 800-252-6110.

Vacation Rental

VACATION CABIN in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Real chink logs, jacuzzi, fireplace and covered porch. No smoking—No pets. 828-627-6037. www.treasurecovecabins.com

"CABIN FEVER!" Cozy vacation cabin at Twin Harbor Resort on Lake Tillery, near Morrow Mountain State and Uwharrie National Parks. \$85.00 nightly, multiple night discounts. Open year-round. 919-542-1958. www.getcabinfever.com

OCEAN LAKES, MYRTLE BEACH: 3BR/2BA—Sleeps nine. August/Fall available. 910-425-5704.

PIGEON FORGE, TN. CONDO RENTAL. Fully furnished with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, living room, hot tub. Call 336-657-3025 or 336-657-3528.

SMOKY MOUNTAINS—GATLINBURG, TN, Love and memories begin here in our chalet. For details call today 866-316-3255—or www.HillsHideaway.com

BEACH HOUSE, CHERRY GROVE, SC. 4BR/2B, sleeps 14. 828-478-3208.

ATLANTIC BEACH, NC. 3BR/2BA, sleeps 6, ocean accesses, all amenities, \$825/week. 252-240-2247 or 252-826-4797.

EMERALD ISLE, NC—CAMP DCEAN FOREST Campground. Camping next to the ocean. Call for rates and reservations 252-354-3454. www.campoceanforest.com

HORTON'S LODGE downtown Blowing Rock. Large rocking chair porch, morning coffee, immaculate rooms with queen beds. 828-295-0002. www.hortonslodge.com

RELAX IN THE MOUNTAINS in Beautiful Maggie Valley, NC. The Holiday Motel offers great room rates, pool, creek, volleyball, picnic/grill area and restaurant. Visit www.holidaymotel.net or toll free 877-686-4386.

BANNER ELK—Fully furnished 3 floors, 1 BR/1 Bath each floor, hot tub. Four ski resorts nearby. 305-752-8392 or 239-850-4292. www.northcarolinavacationrentalhome.com

EMERALD ISLE CONDO SUMMERWINDS. 4 bedroom ocean-front/ pool/sports complex. Weekly rentals www.swartzproperties.com Phone: 804-282-9350 after 6PM.

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC, Windy Hill Section, Luxury 2BR/2BA, condo, fully furnished. Summit Unit 1C, 2nd floor, swimming pool & covered auto parking. 800-753-4537.

ATLANTIC BEACH. 1200 SQ. FT., 2 bedrooms each with queen bed plus queen foldout couch in living room. 2 full baths. 3 TVs, CD, DVD and VHS player. Pool, jacuzzi and sauna. 30 seconds to beach. Call 800-624-5869 or 252-247-3131 and ask about condo #204.

FIRESIDE COTTAGES—A Slice of Heaven in the NC Smokeys! Overlooking picturesque mountain ranges or on a rushing creek! 1.5 miles off Parkway. 828-926-1730.

Gold Maps

FUN. HOW TO PAN. Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, California. 1-321-783-4595. WWW.GOLDMAPS.COM

For Sale

USED PORTABLE SAWMILLS! Buy/Sell. Call Sawmill Exchange 800-459-2148, 205-969-0007, USA & Canada, www.sawmillexchange.com

BAPTISTRY PAINTINGS, Jordan River Scenes. Custom Painted. Christian Arts, Goldsboro, NC 919-736-4166. www.christian-artworks.com

WIRELESS DRIVEWAY ALARMS alerts all traffic. Transmits 500 feet \$179.00. 888-595-8574.

CYPRESS LUMBER. Rough Sawn, Smooth, T&G VJ, Siding. Delivery available. 904-845-4777. www.realwoodhomes.com

CHURCH PEWS, PULPITS, CHAIRS FOR SALE, new and used. Easy Payment Plan Available. Also cushions, stained glass, steeples. 252-975-9800 or www.pews.info

LOW MILEAGE ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS. Best prices, shipping included! CARFAX mileage verification & 199 day warranty. Call today! 866-443-2700. www.wadesautoparts.com Member BBB.

TOO MUCH MONTH at the end of the Money? Join the Financial Freedom Society www.YOUR.FFSI.COM/97331

POLICE IMPDUNDS! Hondas/Chevys/Jeeeps, etc. Cars from \$500! For listings 800-749-8104 ext. 2798.

HOMES FROM \$10,000. Bankruptcies, Foreclosures & HUD's! 1-3 bedrooms! Listings 800-749-8106 ext. 1072.

GRANDFATHER CLOCKS, Cuckoo Clocks Cobra CB-Radios bargain priced! www.bargainbuys-usa.com

KENWILD BDBWHITE QUAIL CHICKS—35,000 weekly, May thru October. Kennedy's Game Farm, 4623 Hwy 705, Robbins, NC 27325—910-464-3444.

AFGHANS, THROWS, WALL HANGINGS, Collegiate throws, John Deere Afghans, Equestrian throws and Pillows Made in North Carolina. www.polktraditions.com

CLEAN YOUR SCUZZY ROOF STAINS. Spray scuzz buster on and rinse off with garden hose. Only \$19.95 plus shipping cleans up to 2000 sq. ft. 252-758-1549 www.johnrwhite.net

23.9 ACRES, MODERN BRICK HOME, new horse barn, pastures, basement, tractor shed. 704-477-2609 www.horseloversproperty.com

25KW WINCO GENERATOR W/PTO—mounted on trailer. \$1000. 336-465-0213.

Insurance

AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE—Major Medical with small co-pays for doctor visits, drugs and routine physicals. Also available—long term care, life and medicare supplements (Plan F—\$95.00 up). 800-470-4415.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS. We believe best rates available—all plans. 800-252-6110.

Mortgages

ARE YOU RECEIVING MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Cash for your note. Free quotations 800-269-9510.

Miscellaneous

SUSPENDERS WITH PATENTED "No-Slip Clip". Free Catalog 800-700-4515—www.suspenders.com

PLAY GOSPEL SONGS BY EAR! 10 lessons \$12.95. "Learn Gospel Music." Chording, runs, fills—\$12.95. Both \$24. Davidsons, 6727C Metcalf, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204.

PUT YOUR OLD HOME MOVIES or slides on videotape. 888-609-9778 or visit my website—www.transferyguy.com

SEPTIC SYSTEM PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE: Natural, Non-chemical. As little as 8 cents per day. www.pro-agdirect.com Call for FREE brochure. 800-599-9980

POND RESTORATION NATURE'S WAY: Naturalclean Pond Clarifier™. Environmentally friendly. www.pro-agdirect.com Call for FREE brochure. 800-599-9980.

AUCTIONEERS & BROKERS, Iron Horse Auction Company, Real Estate or Personal Property, anywhere, anytime, 800-997-2248, ironhorseauction.com Rockingham, NC. NCAL-3936.

BECOME AN ORDAINED MINISTER, Correspondence study. Founded in 1988. Luke 17:2. Free information. Ministers for Christ Outreach, 6630 West Cactus, PMB 107, #B107, Glendale, AZ 85304. www.ordination.org

WWW.CAROLINA AUCTIONS.COM Pierce Auction Service and Real Estate, Inc. Real Estate, Estates and Business Liquidation auctions. Call toll free: 800-650-2427. North Carolina our home. Serving the Eastern United States. Since 1963.

NEW PORTABLE ELECTRIC SCOOTER CHAIR. No cost to you if qualified. Covered by Medicare/Medicaid & private insurance. Call toll-free 866-282-1610 for free information.

NEW DIABETIC MONITOR & ALL DIABETIC SUPPLIES. No More Fingersticks! No cost to you if qualified. Covered by Medicare/Medicaid & private insurance. Call toll-free 866-282-1610 for free information.

VISIT WebsitesByMonica.com for affordable, professional, fast Website Designs and Hosting services.

FREE DIABETIC SUPPLIES for Medicare and Insured Patients Delivered to you FREE. Call 800-248-8814 www.shop4diabetics.com

PDPLAR BARK SIDING: dried and treated. Ready for your rustic home. \$5/ft 828-648-7138.

BRING HOME THOSE MOUNTAIN GOODIES—from the good folks at the Watauga County Farmers' Market. 828-264-2008. www.wataugacountyfarmersmarket.org

BROWNED BABY SHOES—Brochure and information, First Steps Keepsakes, 1428 Pipers Gap Road, Mt. Airy, NC 27030. 336-786-1820.

EASIEST BEST EVER HOMEMADE WINE recipe. Mail \$2.00 in large self-addressed envelope to Ruby Dula, 450 Harris Bridge Road, Stony Point, NC 28678.

WWW.BEACHLIFT.COM—Remote Control Outdoor Cargo Lifts Maintenance Free, 252-945-6822.

GOSPEL PIANO CO'S. Favorite gospel songs and hymns from yesteryear! Free brochure! Jacky Campbell CD's, 11 Clifford, Natchez, MS 39120.

316 ACRES DAVIE COUNTY House, Barns, Pasture, Timber, Cropland. Great for horse/cattle farm, vineyard, golf course, estate, investment. 2½ miles to I-40. 336-492-7218.

The N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the services and products advertised. Readers are advised to understand fully any agreement or purchase they make.



Marinated Catfish Fillets

- 6 catfish fillets (about 8 ounces each)
- 1 bottle (16 ounces) Italian salad dressing
- 1 can (10¾ ounces) condensed tomato soup, undiluted
- ¾ cup vegetable oil
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ cup vinegar
- ¾ teaspoon celery seed
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ¾ teaspoon pepper
- ¾ teaspoon ground mustard
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder

Place fillets in large resealable plastic bag or shallow glass container; cover with salad dressing. Seal bag or cover container; refrigerate for 1 hour, turning occasionally. Drain and discard marinade.

Combine remaining ingredients; mix well. Remove 1 cup for basting. (Refrigerate remaining sauce for another use.)

Grill fillets, covered, over medium-hot heat for 3 minutes on each side. Brush with the basting sauce. Continue grilling for 6–8 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork, turning once and basting several times.

Yield: 6 servings.



Cream Puff Dessert

- 1 cup water
- ½ cup butter (no substitutes)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 eggs

Filling

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 3½ cups cold milk
- 2 packages (3.9 ounces each) instant chocolate pudding mix

Topping

- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- ¼ cup milk chocolate ice cream topping
- ¼ cup caramel ice cream topping
- ⅓ cup chopped almonds

In a saucepan over medium heat, bring water and butter to boil. Add flour all at once; stir until a smooth ball forms. Remove from heat; let stand for 5 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat until smooth. Spread into a greased 13-by-9-by-2 inch baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 30–35 minutes or until puffed and golden brown. Cool completely on a wire rack. Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, milk and pudding mix until smooth. Spread over puff; refrigerate for 20 minutes. Spread with whipped topping; refrigerate until serving. Drizzle with chocolate and caramel toppings; sprinkle with almonds. Store leftovers in the refrigerator.

Yield: 12 servings.

Hearty Eight-Layer Salad

- 1½ cups uncooked small shell macaroni
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 3 cups shredded lettuce
- 3 hard-cooked eggs, sliced
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup julienned fully cooked ham
- 1 cup julienned hard salami
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen peas, thawed
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup chopped green onions
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Colby or Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley



Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain and rinse with cold water. Drizzle with oil and toss to coat. Place the lettuce in a 2½ quart glass serving bowl; top with macaroni and eggs. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Layer with ham, salami and peas. Combine mayonnaise, sour cream, green onions and mustard. Spread over the top. Cover and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Just before serving sprinkle with cheese and parsley.

Yield: 10 servings.

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send \$2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com.



Find more than 200 recipes and photos, and share your favorite recipes, at our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

Do Your Hardwood Floors Look Like Deadwood?



Sealed hardwood floors look beautiful and add value to your home. Due to their naturally unique textures and versatility, they add a touch of class to any home but until now dirt, scratches, and everyday foot traffic could ruin the finish and there was

nothing you could do except a full refinishing. And that's a big job!

I was just quoted \$3,200 to refinish the floors in my home. To make matters worse, my family and my furniture had to be moved out of the house for a week because of the dusty sanding and dangerous fumes. So I asked my staff...is there an easier

way to recapture that once elegant wood finish for a price that we all can afford?

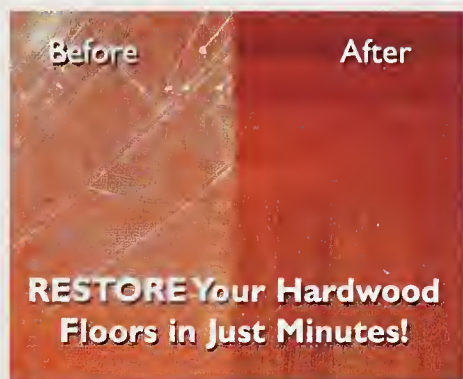
New Polymer Technology

We found a company with some brilliant chemists who found a way to use clear polymers that would fill in everyday scratches and give a deep

lustrous shine to badly worn floors. This revolutionary quick drying multi-functional polymer has been developed to renew sealed hardwood floors without harsh chemicals, waxes and petroleum solvents! This terrific innovation is called Floor Revive and it gives new life to sealed hardwood floors. Just pour it on your hardwood floors and mop it in. It will dry in 40 minutes and the advanced polymer formula minimizes scratches and greatly improves the shine of your floor.

The unique formula Floor Revive can protect your hardwood flooring from stains and discoloration for up to 6 months without harsh chemicals. There is no build-up, no yellowing and your floors get less slippery because Floor Revive doesn't contain any waxes or petroleum solvents.

Floor Revive is the safe, superior alternative to expensive floor refinishing jobs that leave a strong chemical odor behind. It's also great for new floors—just one application will serve as an invisible barrier to improve the luster of your beautiful hardwood floors.



Not Just for Wood.

Floor Revive also remarkably restores marble, slate, concrete, and linoleum floors as well. The exclusive polymer formula improves the shine and offers superior protection on all of these surfaces. Avoid all the costs and inconvenience of floor refinishing. *Just Revive It.*

The regular price for this breakthrough formula is \$19.95 for one 16 oz. bottle, but because we are so convinced that you will use this ingenious product on every floor in your home, we are offering you a great combination deal. For a limited time you can buy **three bottles** of Floor Revive and one bottle of our special floor cleaner for the amazing low price of \$39.90! It's like receiving an extra bottle of Floor Revive and the floor cleaner **FREE!** The concentrated floor cleaner is a new, easy way to lift dirt when mopping without leaving residue. Also, order now and receive the applicator designed to fit regular sized sponge mops **absolutely free!**

We are so sure that you will love Floor Revive, that we offer our 30-day guarantee. If you don't agree that Floor Revive is the most effective way to restore and protect your hardwood floors, return the unused portion for a full refund of the purchase price.

Call now to take advantage of our special combination kit offer.

Hope's Floor Revive Kit

Two payments of \$19.95+S&H

Includes three bottles of Floor Revive, one bottle of floor cleaner, and one mop applicator.

Promotional Code FRV192-04

Please mention this when you call.

Toll-Free 24 hours a day

800-721-0352

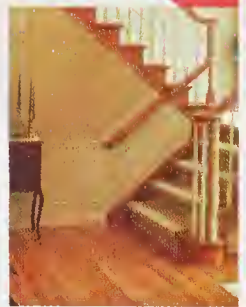
We can also accept your check by phone.

To order by mail call for details.

NEXTTEN 14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. FRV192-04
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

WWW.NEXTTEN.COM

Restore
1,920 sq. ft.
of flooring for only
two payments of
\$19.95!



Electric Cooperative Members!



They are the ones you love the most...

Your family...the ones who share your dreams...

The children and grandchildren who make every day special...

Are they prepared for your final expenses?

We can help provide...

Peace of mind
for you and your loved ones today!

**\$5,000...\$10,000...
up to \$35,000 today!**

- Protection up to \$35,000
- Benefits begin the first day
- No physical exam, based on coverage
- No waiting period
- Proceeds available immediately at death of insured
- Company cannot cancel your plan, reduce your benefits or raise your premium
- Can cost only pennies a day, increase your worth today to leave cash to help a grandchild with college tuition
- Designate cash to your favorite church or charity
- Whole life insurance policy 4-790(92) underwritten by Standard Life and Casualty Insurance Company

Give your loved ones Peace of Mind today!

Please send me more information:

Peace of Mind
3700 Forest Drive Suite 205
Columbia, SC 29204

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

Mail today for Complete Details without Obligation!

CC 06/05

Sample Monthly Rates per 1,000*

Issue Age	Female	Male
5	\$.55	\$.55
15	\$.55	\$.59
35	\$1.08	\$1.30
55	\$2.53	\$3.20
65	\$4.14	\$5.36
75	\$7.64	\$10.23
85	\$16.52	\$19.77

* DOES NOT INCLUDE POLICY FEE, MINIMUMS APPLY - SMOKER AND NONSMOKER
* not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency